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THE TIMES

Karamoja famine will
return with
a vengeance, page 11

Poor health forces Mr Kosygin to quit premiership

Mr Kosygin has relinquished the Soviet premiership after 15 years in office because of the ill health that followed a heart attack a year ago, his last public appearance, at the

Moscow Olympics, has been followed by weeks in hospital. His stop-gap successor is Mr Nikolai Tikhonov who, at 75, is only a year younger than Mr Kosygin.

Stop-gap replacement appointed

On Michael Blyden, Moscow, Oct 23. Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Premier for the past 15 years and the most important figure in the Soviet leadership, has resigned because of ill health. He was officially announced to be succeeded by Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, his deputy, Mr Kosygin, who is 75, after a serious heart attack in October from which he has not properly recovered. He is out of public sight for four days, appearing only at the funeral of a friend on October 22, and at the closing of the Moscow Olympics on August 3, then suffered a relapse. According to informed sources, he has been in hospital since his resignation, one of the longest in Soviet history, which a leader has retired in honour, leaves an enormous gap in the Soviet leadership that will be virtually impossible to fill. His job for the past year has been done by Mr Tikhonov, the 75-year-old Prime Minister, who has been elevated to full membership of the ruling Politburo last November when it was clear that Mr Kosygin's illness was serious. Mr Tikhonov's appointment was announced to a session of the Supreme Soviet, Soviet equivalent of parliament, and was greeted with long applause. But at the age of 75 it is clear that he is a stop-gap replacement. He is the son of a worker in the Red Army, and was one of the generation of early Soviet leaders who quickly rose to prominence, filling the gaps by Stalin's purges. He became a party member in 1927 and was one of the founders of the Communist Party. In 1939 he was one of the

reform in 1965, loosening the tight centralised control by Moscow and the state-planning apparatus and giving greater power and incentives to local factory managers. To his intense disappointment these reforms, considered by Western analysts to have been the last serious attempt to liberalise the Soviet economy, were frustrated by bureaucracy and the conservatism of party functionaries all the way down the line. The death blow was the Czechoslovak crisis of 1968. The Russians saw Mr Dubcek's dangerous political liberalism as a direct result of the attempts at economic reform. Mr Kosygin, said to have been a reluctant supporter of the invasion of Czechoslovakia, noticeably lost power and influence. His foreign policy initiatives, which had been important and included a meeting with Chairman Mao in 1965 and an air-port meeting in Peking with Mr Zhou En-lai in 1969 to try to stop the border fighting between the two countries, began to wane as Mr Brezhnev launched the policy of détente with the West. Mr Kosygin has never been close to Mr Brezhnev and with the latter as the undisputed power in the land, his attention was confined increasingly to the intractable problems of the economy. Until last year, however, he was still the workhorse of the Politburo, a man of formidable knowledge and intelligence who received innumerable delegations and conducted complex negotiations. During Mr Brezhnev's frequent illnesses in the past two years he also undertook a number of important and sensitive overseas trips to India, Ethiopia and South Vietnam. In recent years he was said to be increasingly pessimistic about the economy.

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Councils told to halt spending on housing

By Christopher Weisman and John Young

An indefinite halt to all further local authority capital expenditure on housing was announced yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. These restrictions do not apply to Scotland and Wales. Existing contracts and undertakings will not be affected, and councils will be allowed to continue to honour their statutory obligations, such as the provision of mortgages to buyers of council houses, and of certain types of improvement grant. But no further borrowing will be sanctioned until further notice. The Government's action, which came as a complete surprise, was provoked by indications that total housing expenditure is likely to exceed the £2,200m budget by up to £180m. Ministers made it clear yesterday that they would not allow the authorities to be able to convince the Government that they were on course to stay within their cash limits. They have been given until next Friday to submit new estimates, and Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, said that if he and his colleagues were then persuaded that the councils were on the right track, the restrictions would be lifted. Mr Heseltine's circular instructs authorities not to enter into any further contracts for the acquisition of land and buildings, or for building works; not to authorize their direct labour organizations to start further capital projects, and not to make further grants or loans, except where required to do so by statute. No further borrowing approvals will be issued until further notice and all those already issued are withdrawn except where an authority has already signed a contract or given an undertaking to make a loan. The block borrowing approval given last February for housing investment programmes is also withdrawn, and authorities will not be allowed to get round the restrictions by allocating expenditure from next year's budgets. The Government's drastic action shocked not only local authorities but also the construction industry, which depends heavily upon local authority contracts, and which was assured just over a month ago that a moratorium was not contemplated. Mr Stanley emphasized the Government's determination to see that every part of the public sector adhered to the cash limits which had been set for this year. "We are in the same position as every other department," he added. He pointed out that the moratorium would apply to renovation projects as well as new construction. It would also affect schemes for shared ownership between house purchasers and the Government, on which the Government has recently laid considerable emphasis as a way of encouraging owner occupancy. Mr Stanley's announcement, made after he had addressed a luncheon of the National Home Improvement Council in London, was immediately denounced by Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on the environment, as a declaration of war by the Government on every council tenant and every family hoping to move into council accommodation. Mr Hattersley said: "With one million families on council waiting lists and well over 200,000 construction workers out of work, this Government's disastrous pursuit of monetarist economic policies has at a stroke further destroyed the prospect of decent homes for millions of people and guaranteed a massive increase in unemployment." To base such a moratorium on estimated figures was "disgraceful". Mr Jack Gault, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the moratorium was "a panic reaction that is totally unjustified". Mr Kenneth Cooper, director-general of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, said: "The Government's action is a direct assault on the housing needs of the nation."

Police pin blame on heating system and dismiss rumours of terrorism 61 children die in explosion at Spanish school

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Oct 23

At least 61 children and two adults died in an explosion at an elementary school near the northern Spanish city of Bilbao today. The number of injured was estimated at more than 100. The explosion at midday in the iron ore mining town of Orreaga caused the collapse of most of the central part of the school building. There may have been as many as 1,300 children in the school at the time. It was built for a capacity of 700 students. Police and firemen rejected speculation that the disaster might have been the work of political extremists in the troubled Basque country. They believe that a large tank of propane gas used for the central heating system blew up. One of those who lost his life was a workman who was in the basement repairing the boiler.



A father carrying away his daughter from the ruins of the Orreaga school.

At nightfall firemen, policemen, soldiers, sailors and civilian volunteers were still working feverishly, clearing away debris in the hope of finding more survivors. Messages broadcast throughout the town by loudspeakers urged parents to register the names of their children who attended the school at the town hall, since school records were lost in the accident. The first of the town council said, would be used to help to identify the dead and to determine how many are still missing. Radio stations broadcast appeals for teachers and former teachers to help in the identification of bodies recovered from the rubble. By this evening, 35 of the bodies had been identified. Hospitals in northern Spanish cities sent blood plasma and people waited in long queues to donate blood. Radio stations called on doctors and nurses off duty in the region to go to Orreaga.

The exact number of injured was hard to determine since many of the volunteers doctors set up clinics in houses in the town and treated the injured on the spot rather than send them to hospital. Ambulances were reserved for the most urgent cases. Telephone calls to the town were jammed throughout the day and the police reserved the main roads for emergency traffic. The provisional governor ordered bulldozers and other heavy construction equipment to the scene of the disaster, but most of the work was too delicate for the use of such machinery. Hours after the blast a number of children were still believed to be trapped inside the ruins. School books, papers and smashed desks were scattered over the area. The King and Queen of Spain sent their deep regrets and Queen Sophia flew to Bilbao this evening, intending to drive

to the stricken town as soon as possible. The Ministry of Education announced that there would be no classes in Spain tomorrow, which has been declared a day of mourning. Delegates to the preparatory sessions of the Conference on European Security and cooperation, meeting in Madrid, interrupted their afternoon session to express their sympathy with people affected by the disaster. The explosion added to the troubles of the Basque provinces, where today two men were murdered by urban guerrillas and the search continued for another man kidnapped. The killings and kidnapping were believed to be the work of the ETA separatist organization. One of those murdered was Señor Jaime Ares, mayor of Elgoibar, near San Sebastian. He had been selected by his party, the Centre Democratic Union, to fill a vacant seat in Parliament. The explosion added to the

Seamen call strike in ispute over Cunard

National Union of Seamen called a strike of its members on Cunard vessels in protest against the management's decision to transfer two ships to the company's fleet. The union said that the transfer was a "flag of convenience" move, intended to allow the company to take part in a one-day strike on November 3 which would badly affect ferry services. The union said that the transfer was a "flag of convenience" move, intended to allow the company to take part in a one-day strike on November 3 which would badly affect ferry services. The union said that the transfer was a "flag of convenience" move, intended to allow the company to take part in a one-day strike on November 3 which would badly affect ferry services.

Use of Army in jails 'not ruled out'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

As prison officers talked of increasing their sanctions, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said last night he could not rule out the use of troops. He will give Parliament details on Monday of contingency plans for action when all available police call accommodation runs out. That could happen some time next week, he admitted. Yesterday, the number of people held in police cells rose from 2,991 to 3,288. Prisoners are being held in cells at police stations and court complexes, sometimes in barely tolerable conditions. They have been refused entry to prisons as a result of the dispute. Mr Whitelaw declined to explain how the troops would be used. He would only say he would not rule out their use in certain circumstances and conditions. He hoped it would not be necessary to use troops inside prisons. Up to now, we have not used troops or police inside existing prisons. Prison officers who had seen Mr Whitelaw came away with the strong impression that he could be talking about the use of troops. Saying there had been no riot in the deadlock, Mr

ICl blames recession for first loss of £10m

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke, Financial Editor

The strength of sterling and a worldwide slump in demand for chemicals and textiles has pushed Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest industrial company and leading exporter, into losses for the first time. Provisional third-quarter figures published yesterday, a month in advance of normal, show a loss of £10m. Sales in the period were held at £1,304m, but volume was down by 12 per cent. In the same period last year, ICI achieved profits of £155m, and in the first quarter of this year profits were still being maintained at £155m. Since then the deterioration has been dramatic. In the second quarter profits slumped £72m. Of the third quarter, ICI said yesterday: "The impact of current trading difficulties on the group is significantly greater than appears to be generally expected." Sir Maurice Hodgson, ICI's chairman, said the company had been hit by a "unique combination of adverse circumstances". These were: the recession; sharply increased costs of oil and oil-related products such as chemicals and man-made fibres; higher wage costs exacerbated by excess plant capacity in petrochemicals and fibres; and the soaring exchange rate. The stock market had been expecting bad figures. Last week, ICI's textiles division announced the closure of two plants and the loss of 4,000 jobs over the past 18 months. In active trading yesterday,

President draws level in US election race

From David Cross, Washington, Oct 23

With only 12 days to go before the presidential election, Mr Carter has caught up in the opinion polls with Mr Ronald Reagan, his Republican challenger. The latest survey published by The New York Times and the CBS television network today shows that the President has the support of 39 per cent of the probable electorate, while Mr Reagan has a 38 per cent share. Support for Mr John Anderson, the independent candidate, has dwindled to a mere 9 per cent, but 13 per cent are still unsure of their final choice. The organizers of the poll say that the margin of error in the survey is sufficiently great to mean that Mr Reagan could in fact still be slightly ahead of the President. Nevertheless, The New York Times says, the President has advanced to an essentially even position over the past month by attracting some wavering Democrats and gaining on his rival among independents. The previous poll taken by the two organizations at the end of last month showed that Mr Carter was trailing the former Governor of California by 35 per cent to 40 per cent. At present both Mr Carter and Mr Reagan are campaigning in the South. Election report, page 5

Seamen in talks 'The Times'

In leaders are to hold talks with Thomson British Holdings to get the company to agree to its decision to dispose of the shipbuilding business. The union said that the transfer was a "flag of convenience" move, intended to allow the company to take part in a one-day strike on November 3 which would badly affect ferry services. The union said that the transfer was a "flag of convenience" move, intended to allow the company to take part in a one-day strike on November 3 which would badly affect ferry services.

Mr Benn stopped from standing

Mr Wedgwood Benn is not standing in the parliamentary election for the Labour Party after its left-wing persuaded him not to "legitimize" the election while a formula for a wider electoral college was being sought. Page 2

closed shop al for review

Shall intend to hold talks with the three unions in December to get the closed-shop agreement in the Employment Act. It believes the agreement may have to be revised. Page 2

Prison uniform abolition in Ulster conceded

By Christopher Thomas

The Cabinet yesterday conceded a crucial demand of Republican prisoners in Northern Ireland in an attempt to avert a hunger strike due to begin at the Maze on Monday. Prison uniform in Ulster is being abolished, answering one of the main demands of IRA and other Republican inmates. Provisional Sinn Féin, flushed with what it sees as an enormous success, said merely that the next move was up to the prisoners. There was no early indication last night whether the move will prevent a hunger strike but "loyalist" politicians embarked on an immediate propaganda trade against the Government. The change affects all Ulster prisoners but is clearly directed at about 350 people who are on "dirty protest", a bizarre and foul exercise that for 30 months has formed a vital part of the Provisional's propaganda campaign in Ireland and abroad. A five-page statement by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, rejected categorically any concession on political status, which ostensibly lies behind the threatened hunger strike. In truth, it has long been felt in Republican circles that concessions on prison clothing and prison work might be enough to end the "dirty protest" and avert the strike. Privately, it is conceded that the prisoners have accepted that they have lost the battle for political status and would settle for something less. The hunger strike, if it goes ahead, will involve a token number of prisoners at the beginning, with more joining in at intervals. The action has consistently been opposed by the IRA hierarchy and the Roman Catholic establishment. The Northern Ireland Office said that the decision to approve the wearing of civilian clothes, a concession given to female prisoners, followed a review which had been in progress for some time. Mr Atkins said: "The Government will not and cannot make any concessions whatever on the principle of political status for prisoners who claim a political motive for their crimes. All have been convicted of criminal acts by due process of law." Unjust, politicians were swift and severe in their con-

Seamen call strike in ispute over Cunard

National Union of Seamen called a strike of its members on Cunard vessels in protest against the management's decision to transfer two ships to the company's fleet. The union said that the transfer was a "flag of convenience" move, intended to allow the company to take part in a one-day strike on November 3 which would badly affect ferry services. The union said that the transfer was a "flag of convenience" move, intended to allow the company to take part in a one-day strike on November 3 which would badly affect ferry services.

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HOME NEWS

Dilemma for Mr Pym
is the Treasury seeks
400m cut in defence

Henry Stanhope, defence correspondent, reports a dispute about defence spending, or cuts in it, as the case may be, likely to break about the end of Mr. Pym's tenure of the Treasury. The Treasury is seeking a 400m cut in defence, a figure which would be a serious blow to the defence budget. The Treasury is seeking a 400m cut in defence, a figure which would be a serious blow to the defence budget. The Treasury is seeking a 400m cut in defence, a figure which would be a serious blow to the defence budget.

City livery company
sues suit by guests

Unsubstantiated claims that the Society of Apothecaries, a livery company of 1,400 members, may be sued for damages of up to £100,000 by a group of guests who claimed to have been poisoned at a dinner at the company's premises last June. The claim is being made by a group of guests who claimed to have been poisoned at a dinner at the company's premises last June.

sh may have
led bomb
ds in Britain

Our Correspondent reports that a man in the Irish Republic who has been linked with IRA for a bombing offensive in Britain at Christmas. The man is believed to have been involved in a bombing offensive in Britain at Christmas.

feree fined
10 for fraud

An McNally, an international footballer, was fined £10 for fraud after being found guilty of deception and five other offences. The fine was imposed after a hearing at the County Court in London.

litor refused to correct mistakes in
ticle about Trotsky's murderer

editor of the New Statesman, who had refused to correct mistakes in an article about Trotsky's murderer, was told by the court that he had committed a contempt of court. The court found that the editor had committed a contempt of court by refusing to correct mistakes in an article about Trotsky's murderer.



Ulster flood havoc: Soldiers and police in an Army inflatable boat keeping a watch yesterday on homes abandoned because of flooding in Manse Road, Newtownards, Co. Down, after 10 hours of rain in Northern Ireland and northern areas of the Irish Republic. Many roads, including the motorway between Ballymoney and Ballymena, in Co. Antrim, were closed. The Royal Ulster Constabulary said a number of rivers in Londonderry and Co. Tyrone were running dangerously high and some were on the verge of bursting their banks. A spokesman said driving conditions throughout the province were hazardous and advised drivers to stay indoors if possible. Firemen reported that the road between Monaghan and Ballybay, Co. Monaghan, was flooded.

In brief

Ban on football
fan aged 82

Mr Samuel Phillips, aged 82, has been banned by Herefordshire Football Association from attending Ledbury Town's home games for the rest of the season because of unruly behaviour. The ban was imposed after Phillips was seen to be causing trouble at a game with Lye in August.

Man and girl sought

An international search began yesterday after Mr. Justice Ewbank in the High Court authorised publicity in the case of Alan John Weston, who is missing with his daughter Calu, aged six, who was said to have been snatched from her grandparents' home in Manchester last month.

Dublin pay agreement

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions yesterday accepted a wage agreement covering 15 months which will give increases of about 16 per cent to 800,000 workers in the republic. The agreement was reached after a series of negotiations between the unions and employers.

Youths arrested

Five youths were arrested yesterday after fighting outside Bristol magistrates' court during the committal hearing of charges arising from the city riot in April. The youths were charged with various offences related to the riot.

X-ray plates ples

King's Lynn hospital, Norfolk, where the X-ray records of 15,000 patients were stolen, appeared yesterday for their return. The police believe the plates were taken for their silver value, which is estimated at £5,000.

DPP calls for file

The Director of Public Prosecutions called yesterday for a police file on the case in which a BBC *National* team was arrested while filming a programme about the illegal sport of dog-baiting.

Car death charge

David John Davies, aged 31, Pen-y-graig, Mid. Glamorgan, was charged last night with the murder of his wife, Jenice, whose body was found in their burnt-out car on Saturday.

Woman dies at 111

Mr. Florence Pannell, aged 111, believed to be Britain's oldest inhabitant, has died at an old people's home in west London. She had lived for over a century and was well-known in her community.

Scottish bishop dies

The Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway in the Episcopal Church in Scotland, the Right Rev. Frederick Goldie, died yesterday aged 66. He had served the church for many years and was highly respected.

Anglican community faces some candid criticisms
Church of England's soul on trial

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent. An examination of the state of the Church of England's soul, by itself and by 17 other churches, will take place next year. The church will be asked to state what it thinks it is for, and will be subjected to candid criticisms of its aims by the outsiders. The process is called a "partners in mission consultation", which was invented by the Anglican Communion at a conference in Dublin in 1973. It is intended to turn the attention of other national churches in the Anglican Communion on each church, one by one. The Church of England's turn has now come.

how they think the Church of England is performing its task, after a detailed examination of the way it is operating. With the two Roman Catholic churches, the appraisal will be conducted by the Church of North India and the Evangelical Churches of East Germany. Participation by the Orthodox Churches is being sought through the World Council of Churches. The main organizations of the Church of England have been asked to give a statement of their objectives and to answer a questionnaire described as "searching". That has gone to such bodies as the Mothers' Union, the Church Commissioners and the Church Missionary Society. Local diocesan bishops' councils have also been subjected to the questionnaire process. Replies are said to indicate a certain uneasiness. A key question asks what the organization concerned means by the word "mission" and it is no secret that the wrong answer is "the conversion of savages overseas". They will prepare a report on

The "mission" referred to in the project's title is taken to refer to the whole sense of purpose of the Church of England, starting in its own backyard. The Church of England will field a team which, with representatives of the other churches taking part, will study the church in depth next summer. The appraisal will be presented to the General Synod of the Church of England next summer in two parts, one from the outside consultants and one from the team that represented the Church of England. The process is described in a paper to be considered by the general synod next month, and published today. It helps to set the tone of a "new beginning" for the general synod, after its recent election of a new membership. At the new membership's first meeting, after the inauguration of the session by the Queen, the synod will undertake general debates on the broader questions facing the church in the 1980s.

Predicted fall in overseas students
disproved, minister claims

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent. The number of overseas students who have accepted places at British universities on undergraduate courses starting this autumn is virtually the same as last year, despite the new high fees for overseas students, and despite the dire warnings from many universities. Figures released yesterday by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) show that to date 5,756 overseas students have accepted places on undergraduate courses, compared with 5,767 at the same time last year, when fees were between a half and a fifth of their present minimum level of £2,000 for an arts course, £3,000 for a science course and £5,000 for a medical, dental or veterinary science course.

The vice-chancellors' committee points out, however, that the figures relate to acceptances, not to actual admissions, and that the number of students who finally turn up is invariably lower than the number accepted. Earlier this year many universities were predicting a fall of a half or more in the intake of overseas students. Sir Alec Morrison, chairman of the CVCP, gave a warning that the Government's policy on overseas students' fees could put a number of universities at risk. The universities' recurrent grant has been reduced this year by an amount which the Government says is attributable to the cost of overseas students, with the universities left to fill the gap, if they can, by charging greatly increased tuition fees.

The CVCP said yesterday that the latest figures suggested that the strenuous efforts made by universities to continue to attract overseas students had been successful. However, the figures needed to be treated with great caution. The minimum fees being charged by most universities were well below the actual full-cost fee which the Government was deducting. So even if universities took the same number of overseas students, they would still be badly out of pocket. Furthermore, figures for overseas postgraduate students, which in recent years had accounted for half the total number of overseas students, were not yet available, "and the position in relation to them may be a good deal worse", it said.

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WEST EUROPE



Cardinal Wysynski, in Rome, Cardinal Wysynski, the Polish Primate, on arrival at Rome airport yesterday at the beginning of a two-week visit, during which he is expected to have several meetings with the Pope. There is a feeling of conviction in Rome that the Polish Workers' confidence

Forlani Cabinet meets muted opposition

From Peter Nichols Rome, Oct 23

Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the incoming Prime Minister, can have a satisfactory, from the point of view of the opposition, to his new coalition which came from the Communists in the confidence debate today.

He succeeds a Government which announced the highest opposition for years from the Communist Party. Signor Forlani, however, is a Communist leader, reconfirmed today that the party would oppose the administration, but he was much more tender in his approach.

It was certainly not the Government that Italy needed to overcome the crisis facing it in all areas, he said, but added: "We are ready to give our contribution to resolve urgent questions and problems of our society positively. Knowing full well that there will be no lack of manoeuvres and efforts at putting off or eluding the solution of these problems, we shall struggle to make Parliament and the Government face them and decide what to do."

He was speaking on the opening day of the confidence debate in the Chamber of Deputies which is expected to end on Saturday. A favourable vote for the Government is assured. Signor Forlani has the support not only of his own Christian Democrats, but also of the Socialists, the Republicans and Social Democrats.

The tone of the Communist opposition is, nevertheless,

important to him. The immediate problems are economic and financial, and these, from the Communist point of view, would be an obstacle to the ambitious plan he has outlined of dealing with economic problems.

Both Signor Forlani and Signor Berlinguer have sounded a new note of realism. The Prime Minister, however, has the country required encouragement rather than gloom and refused to accept the catastrophic approach to Italy's troubles. He reaffirmed his faith in his native virtues.

However, there are criticisms in the press today of the somewhat bland way in which he listed all the issues facing his administration, which would require a very long time indeed if he were genuinely to tackle them all. The Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* pointed out that he might be expected to stay in office hardly above 2001.

Signor Berlinguer's careful attitude was in part dictated by divisions within the party on the outcome of the election. Signor Berlinguer is carefully recalling that he directly encouraged the Fiat workers to occupy the factories, as it had been alleged in some sections of the press.

The unions themselves are also finding that their failure to support the leadership of the whole range of the Fiat workers had brought the need for self-questioning about the attitude to be adopted by the trade union movement in a period of greater realism.

OVERSEAS

Church ready to help Polish authorities keep national stability

From Dossa Trevisan Warsaw, Oct 23

Assurances of constructive cooperation between the Polish Communist Party and the Roman Catholic Church in the interests of Poland's internal peace and security were expressed at a meeting yesterday between Cardinal Wysynski, the Polish Primate, and Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader.

It comes only a few days after the meeting in Poland of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers and on the eve of the Warsaw district court hearing which ought to decide on the formal registration of Solidarity, the independent union.

The Catholic church has given its unequivocal support to the workers in their demands as well as to the independent union, but has also urged them to work.

The authorities have publicly recognized this as a positive reaction, reflecting concern for the nation and the stability of the country, which is of common interest to all.

A brief statement, published at the end of yesterday's meeting said that good relations between the authorities and the church are of great importance to domestic peace and in the interests of the country's security.

Poland's population of 36 million is overwhelmingly Catholic and in the present situation, when the party needs to regain its credibility, the church's authority is clearly what counts.

On past occasions it was the church's voice to which the people listened in times of crisis and turmoil. On this occasion also the church has assumed its responsibility and taken the line that at the present juncture it is necessary to calm down and consolidate the workers' gains. The church was obviously aware of the dangers if tension was perpetuated.

No one here concealed the fact that Poland's allies while accepting the Polish leadership's political arguments in

favour of reform, are sceptical about its effects.

Fears that this might affect the country's stability are obvious. This is therefore, a crucial moment for Poland as the agreements are beginning to be implemented and the country enters a new stage.

This is why the registration of Solidarity has become of great importance as the delays increase the risk of new labour protests. Tomorrow, the Warsaw district court and representatives of the union's coordinating committee, headed by Mr Lech Walesa, will meet in an attempt to find a compromise.

The authorities are contesting the statutes and insisting on explicit recognition of the party's leading role, pointing out the union's commitment in the agreement signed in Gdansk and elsewhere. Union experts, however, say the explicit pledge to work within the constitution covers this point. There is a good chance of the issue being settled.

New problems are brewing with railway workers in Wroclaw pressing the authorities for wage increases for the lowest paid categories and 34 railway workers beginning hunger strikes in protest against an alleged breach of agreement. They want the lowest wages to be doubled.

Workers in the big Ursus tractor plant in Warsaw stopped work for several hours this morning demanding a wage increase of 750 zlotys (£11). When the strike threatened to spread to the afternoon shift, Mr Walesa intervened and asked the workers to suspend action while negotiations with the minister went on.

The Government is prepared to meet the demand only half way, pleading for understanding because it simply cannot increase wages at the present difficult time. Already about 10 million workers have received increases which the Government had hoped to award in gradual stages until next summer.

S. African opposition party fails to take seat

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Oct 23

The opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) today failed in its attempt to capture the East London (North) constituency in a by-election.

The seat was held by the New Republic Party (NRP)—the remnants of the old United Party—whose candidate, Mr Harland Bell, polled 5,155 votes. The PFP's candidate, Mr John Malcolm, who caused the by-election by resigning the seat after leaving the NRP to join the PFP earlier this year, won 3,783 votes.

Although the size of the NRP's majority was reduced, the result was a severe disappointment to the PFP, particularly as it came only a month after the PFP failed to capture the Simonstown constituency from the ruling National Party. Mr Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert, the PFP leader, attempted to place the best interpretation on the result by pointing out that his party had increased its support both in Simonstown and East London.

However, party officials have conceded that the PFP's decision to boycott the new President's Council together with the Government's own cautious reformist policies are making it increasingly difficult for the party to win over voters.

This point was emphasized today by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, who said the result was a rejection of "leftist radicalism."

Briton murdered in Hollywood

Los Angeles, Oct 23—A British tourist, identified as Geoffrey Lancashire, aged 35, a draughtsman from Oldham, Lancashire, has been found stabbed to death in a Hollywood hotel, police said today.

He was apparently murdered on Monday night. His room had been ransacked, but it was not immediately known what was missing. —Reuters.

American commentary

Period of paralysis in Washington foreseen

On Tuesday week, Americans will elect a president, a Vice-President, 34 Senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives.

They will also elect a number of governors and state legislators in a number of states and a vast variety of other officials.

Everyone, of course, pays most attention to the presidential election, but whoever wins that contest will have to cope with a new Congress, and it is possible to foresee already a period of total paralysis. The Republicans are going to pick up enough seats, particularly in the Senate, to frustrate Mr Carter completely, if he wins, but not enough to enable Mr Reagan to govern effectively, if he should win.

Members of the House have two-year terms, and therefore spend most of their time, particularly in their first few terms, running for reelection. Senators have six-year terms, and a third of the Senate is elected every two years.

In 1978, 20 new Senators were elected, including one woman, Mrs Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican from Kansas, the first woman to be elected on her own (all the others succeeded husbands who had been members of Congress). Ten Senators up for reelection were defeated, three in primaries, seven in the general election.

This time four Senators have been defeated in their primaries, and there is a good chance that even more incumbents will lose their seats than last time. Only five are retiring voluntarily. There will be more women and fewer Jews (and Japanese-Americans will still have 3 per cent of the Senate). It will, at all events, be a more conservative assembly.

In the House, members have usually assumed that their tenure was much more firmly assured than that of Senators. The chairman of a number of important committees have discovered to their horror that this may no longer be true. Mr Al Ullman, chairman of the Ways and Means committee, has to fight for his life to hold

Patrick Brogan

Mr Reagan hurt by warmonger taunt

From David Cross Washington, Oct 23

President Carter has probably increased his chances of victory in the November 4 election by exploiting the Reagan peace issue against his Republican opponent. Mr Reagan acknowledged as much in an interview with the *Washington Post* published today.

"I felt he would try to make me the issue of the campaign and he obviously did by using this warmongering charge," the Republican candidate said. But he added that he was confident of turning the campaign back to what he felt was the main issue of the campaign, Mr Carter's "record of failure," when he debates with the President on television next Tuesday.

During a day of campaigning in the South yesterday, Mr Reagan promised that he would eschew comments on the fate of the 52 American hostages in Iran during the final stages of the election campaign.

On Tuesday, he had said that the continued captivity of the hostages was a "humiliation and disgrace" to the United States. Mr Carter countered this allegation by accusing his opponent of breaking up earlier, pledge not to make "a political football" out of the issue of the hostages.

Instead Mr Reagan continued to pound away at Mr Carter's record with claims that "the man who is asking for four more years isn't competent to do the job."

Mr Carter, who was also campaigning in his native South, yesterday showed no signs of dropping the personal attacks on his opponent which he has made the hallmark of his campaign. According to a pair of cowboy boots in Texas, the President remarked that the Republicans had "a habit of spreading a lot of horse manure around lately before election time. Lately as you know, it's getting pretty deep all over the country."

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Mr Muldoon survives party revolt

From Our Correspondent Wellington, Oct 23

Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, re-established his grip on government leadership today after weeks of simmering revolt. The fire went out of the rebels when Mr Brian Talboys, deputy to Mr Muldoon and Foreign Minister, refused to join their ranks at today's meeting of government MPs.

Mr Talboys, who returned from Europe yesterday, had been courted as Mr Muldoon's replacement, but he told the caucus that he believed the leadership was not in contention.

The plot by backbenchers and some Cabinet ministers was hatched while Mr Muldoon was abroad. Their complaints turned principally on his aggressive style of economic management, and when the Prime Minister returned last week he was met by a campaign vigorously in public, claiming that only he could lead his National Party to victory in next year's elections.

His populist strategy embarrassed the party hierarchy by exposing the extent of rifts in the Government, but the response to his direct appeal enabled him to convince the wavering that his critics were not representative.

On the radio this morning, Mr Muldoon made no apology. He dismissed those who sought his resignation as being "wet behind the ears" and declared that "tossing down" his style would be "totally out of character" with Robert Muldoon.

Libyan account of Colorado shooting rejected

Washington, Oct 23—The State Department has rejected Libyan explanations of the attempted murder of Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

The head of the Libyan diplomatic mission, claimed that Fayzi Zagall, aged 35, a student at the University of Colorado, was shot twice in the head at his home by members of a "world revolutionary committee".

Mr Zagall is in hospital at Fort Collins, Colorado, and his condition is said to be fair. The Libyan news agency JANA last Friday charged that he was a spy for United States intelligence services, an accusation also a State Department official yesterday called "an outrageous acknowledgement" of Libyan involvement in the shooting. —Agence France-Press.

Three executed in Mozambique

Lisbon, Oct 23—The Mozambique Government announced that three men tried for espionage and military sabotage had been hanged last week by firing squad, bringing to 39 the number of executions in the last 19 months.

Police arrested 400 "marginals, bandits and criminals" last weekend in Beira. The "marginals" (prostitutes and hoodlums) would be sent to "re-education camps" and the others would be tried. —UPL.

Sheep die near Italian chemical disaster factory

Dessa, Italy, Oct 23—About 150 sheep died last night after grazing on land contaminated by a chemical factory at Seveso in 1976, police said.

They died where grazing and cultivation had been banned since the explosion at the Swiss-owned chemical plant that caused their infection, and skin diseases in at least 1,000 local people.

Signor Silvano Desiderati, the Mayor of Dessa, said examinations of two of the sheep showed "there was no direct" connection between the death of the animals and dioxin poisoning, but that there could be a causal connection. —UPL.

Basque politician shot dead by terrorists

San Sebastian, Oct 23—Basque separatists murdered a Basque politician and a telephone company executive today, police said.

Signor Jaime Arrese, a member of the ruling Democratic Centre Union who was to take up a seat in the Madrid Parliament, was shot in the Basque town of Elgoibar, where he was a former mayor.

Signor Juan Manuel Garcia Cordero, local director of the National Telephone Company, was found shot through the head in the hills outside San Sebastian. —Reuters.

Attempt to right capsized oil rig starts today

By Nicholas Hirst Energy Correspondent

The Alexander Kieland, the oil rig which capsized in Norwegian waters with the loss of 123 lives in March, is expected to be righted next week.

All preliminary work to ballast the remaining four legs of the rig has been completed. Computer-controlled ballasting to turn the Kieland over gradually will begin tomorrow and is expected to be completed within seven days.

The 10,000 tonne rig, which has been towed to Stavanger, has had 375 buoyancy bags, each with a displacement of five tonnes, attached to it. The

buoyancy chambers in each remaining leg are to be pumped with air. The fifth leg snapped, causing the rig to turn over.

Norwegian police will be first on to the rig when it is righted to perform the grisly task of removing the bodies of men still trapped in the wreckage. More than 50 men were unaccounted for when rescue operations were called off.

Lifting of the rig is a joint venture of the British group SD Marine of Southampton and Nicosverken Norge A.C. a Norwegian ship repair company. The contract is worth £4m. The insurance value of the rig, which is expected to see service again, is £25m.

OVERSEAS

Saudi-Libyan relations deteriorate as King Khalid accuses Colonel Gaddafi of insulting Islam

From Tewfik Mishlawi, Beirut, Oct. 23

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Libya took a turn for the worse this week when King Khalid sent a sharply worded message to Colonel Gaddafi, accusing the Libyan leader of being a "speaker against Islam and Islamic sanctities".

The move was rare in Saudi Arabia's diplomatic conduct. King Khalid went out of his way to defend his country's acquisition of four United States Air Force radar and monitoring aircraft, which prompted the Libyan leader to declare on Sunday that Saudi Arabia and the Muslim holy places in it were "under American occupation".

Saudi Arabia requested the aircraft soon after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war. Their purpose was to monitor military activities in the Gulf area for the Saudis and Americans.

King Khalid's rebuke, broadcast by the Saudi State Radio

yesterday, was in reply to a message which he said he had received from Colonel Gaddafi, urging him to demand the immediate withdrawal of the American aircraft from Saudi Arabia.

Arab diplomats in Beirut said they would not be surprised if the two countries broke off diplomatic relations. What seems to have upset the Saudis most was the fact that the Libyan campaign coincided with the high point of the Muslim Haj (pilgrimage) season and the feast of Al Adha (sacrifice).

About two million Muslims from all over the world were in Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage last weekend.

The Saudis were also angered by Colonel Gaddafi's bringing the Muslim holy places into the dispute. On the first day of the Haj, the Libyan leader claimed that "American military aircraft were flying over Mecca and Medina" where Islam's holiest places are located.

Under such conditions, he

added, "the practice of Islamic rituals is an exercise in hypocrisy".

The Saudi-Libyan conflict is the latest addition to the continually growing number of inter-Arab disputes. It not only widens the split in Arab ranks, but also sharpens the polarization of Arab countries between East and West, especially in view of American and Soviet attempts to gain wider influence in the region.

While the United States acquired military facilities in Oman, Somalia and Kenya this year, the Soviet Union this month signed a long-term friendship and cooperation agreement with Syria. There have been reports that Colonel Gaddafi will also visit Moscow later this year to sign a similar agreement.

With the Arab world more divided now than at any time in its history, Arab heads of state plan to handle their scheduled summit in Amman next month.

Threat to try hostages if demands not met

Tehran, Oct. 23.—The American hostages held in Iran will be "tried immediately" if the United States refuses to accept Iran's conditions for their release, a member of the parliamentary committee on the hostages said here today.

Hojatoleslam Musavi Khomeini, one of the seven members of the committee, said: "The chief conditions of the release of the hostages are the release of the Ayatollah Khomeini's condition. There will be others but they will be within this framework."

An American has been arrested and is being held in Iran in addition to the 52 diplomatic hostages and a freelance writer, the State Department said in Washington today.

Mr. George Haven, a spokesman for the Department's working group on Iran, said the man, Mr. Mohai Sobhani, aged 44, an Iranian by birth and a naturalized American citizen, was arrested in Iran last month and is held on unspecified charges.

"The Swiss have been trying to get access to him, but so far have been unable to do so. We know of no formal charges," Mr. Haven said. The United States Government has been working through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran on the hostages issue.

Iran says Iraqi night raid on Abadan repulsed

From Our Correspondent, Beirut, Oct. 23

Iran said today that its forces defending the beleaguered oil centre of Abadan thwarted an overnight Iraqi attempt to pierce the city's defence lines. It indicated that fuel shortages were becoming worse after the destruction of several oil pipelines. Domestic fuel rationing has been announced.

The Iranian Red Crescent (the Muslim equivalent of the Red Cross) announced that about 1,325 Iranian civilians were killed and 6,000 others wounded in various towns in the oil province of Khuzestan during nearly five weeks of hostilities.

The heaviest casualties occurred in the provincial capital of Ahvaz. The red crescent said 516 civilians were killed and 2,108 wounded.

The Iraqi attempt to control the besieged city of Abadan was accompanied by a prolonged air raid on the city, causing heavy civilian casualties. Tehran radio said Iraqi land forces have cut off the city from the rest of Iran in the hope of forcing its inhabitants to surrender.

the fringes of Abadan and the port city of Khorramshahr, near by, Iran said an Iraqi pontoon bridge on the River Karun was destroyed.

An Iraqi military communiqué today said Iraqi forces were "continuing to clean up enemy pockets of resistance on all sections of the battle front". It put Iranian losses at 24 killed, together with four tanks, 10 vehicles and a fuel dump destroyed.

Iraqi losses were given as 25 killed and five military vehicles destroyed. Both sides claimed they sank each other's warships and shot down attacking jets.

The Iranians said they pushed the Iraqis back at Khorramshahr and their forces made headway farther north near the Iraqi-held border town of Qasr-E-Shir.

Tehran Radio said that gas oil rationing has been set at 132 gallons a month per household but the date for putting the programme into effect will be announced later.

Dr. Saadoun Hamad, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, said in an interview published in Amman today that Iraq "has no conditions to make for a halt to hostilities. All that Iraq wants is to have Iran recognize our sovereign and territorial rights and stop interfering in the internal affairs of other countries in the region."

New Soviet Premier began career as an engine driver's assistant

The colourless man who finally rose to power in the wake of Mr Kosygin's heart attacks

From Michale Binyon, Moscow, Oct. 23

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the new Soviet Prime Minister, is a relatively colourless figure who has spent virtually all his political life in the Soviet economic and planning apparatus.

His appointment as Prime Minister, in the absence of any more senior figure in the Politburo with the necessary background and experience, means that this post is now held by a less significant figure than at virtually any other time since the founding of the Soviet Union.

Mr Tikhonov was born in Kharkov in the Ukraine and began his career as an engine driver's assistant on the railways. He was educated at the Metallurgical Institute in Dnepropetrovsk, the Ukrainian town where Mr Brezhnev also began his political career.

After the Second World War the two men worked together to rebuild industry in the region.

Much of Mr Tikhonov's early career was spent in heavy industry, working in plants and factories and then holding senior political posts at the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy. He became a deputy chairman of the State Economic Council in 1950, then went to the State Planning Committee and, since 1965, has been a Deputy Prime Minister. He rose to the position of First Deputy Prime Minister only four years ago when Mr Kosygin, only one year his senior, had his first heart attack.

From then on he rose quickly, mainly due to Mr Kosygin's illness, effectively taking over his job last October.



Mr Tikhonov: Once reproached for overspending.

He joined the party in 1940 but did not become a candidate member of the Politburo until 1978 and was made a full member last year.

His close ties to Mr Brezhnev would make him a compatible colleague at the top of the Soviet hierarchy but he clearly lacks the authority of many other senior figures, most of whom have been voting mem-

bers of the full Politburo and therefore privy to the innermost discussions of the Soviet leadership far longer than he has.

Mr Tikhonov is in no position to rise any further and can be ruled out as a contender for the party leadership should Mr Brezhnev die. As Prime Minister, a job which now appears to have a purely internal economic dimension, he is not expected to change course or introduce any radical reforms.

However, he is faced with the daunting task of trying to revive the sluggish economy and to put into effect last year's complicated plan, a degree which was meant to make the economy more responsive to the needs of the country.

In his memoirs Mr Brezhnev describes how Mr Tikhonov, then a director of a steel pipe factory, was reprimanded for spending too much money without "authorization" on a "sanatorium" for his workers. Mr Brezhnev, in his account, successfully defended him against the criticism of the minister of the steel industry, who asked Mr Tikhonov: "Who do you think you are, Rockefeller?"

Mr Tikhonov, like Mr Kosygin, is a rather gaudy, grey-haired man. His wife, Fraykovskaya, died earlier this month and an investigation hint that some "gross negligence" was involved in her death.

It is extremely unusual for a senior newspaper to print details of the families of party leaders unless, some, special mark of recognition is intended. Leading article, page 13

Uganda missionaries taken prisoner

New York, Oct. 23.—Four missionaries — three Britons and an American — are being held prisoners in the West Nile district of Uganda, the mission they worked for reported today.

The Rev Peter Stam, director of the African Inland Mission, said he had learnt from Naliothi that the four had been captured in Kuluva, in the West Nile district, where the mission operates a hospital.

It was unclear whether the captives were being held by forces of Idi Amin, the former President, or Ugandan Government troops, though it was reported by the latter. Government forces recently counter-attacked in the area and regained control.

The identified the three Britons as Maureen Moore, a nurse, in her fifties; Jov Galloway, a secondary school teacher in her sixties; and Paul Begg, aged 27, who had been assigned to the area on a short-term basis for building and the American, a translator in her sixties.

Court stays exile of Arab mayors

Jerusalem, Oct. 23.—The Israeli Supreme Court today issued a temporary injunction forbidding the Government from deporting the mayors of two West Bank towns. Laura Barr, a British woman, is a translator in her sixties.

The mayors of Hebron and Halhoul were deported in May, after six Jews were killed in Hebron. — Reuters

Delhi considering transfer of high court judges

From Kuldeep Nayar, Delhi, Oct. 23

The Government is reported to be examining a proposal to transfer the chief justices of all high courts in the country.

Mr Shiv Shankar, the Law Minister, who has initiated the move, believes that an outside chief justice will administer the courts more independently than the present ones. His argument is that the transfer of judges is a matter of policy which the executive should have the right to implement.

Mr Justice Y. V. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, who is consulted before such transfers, has said that he is willing to take up specific cases but

not give blanket power to the Government.

Mr Shiv Shankar and Mr Justice Chandrachud have discussed the matter many times and both have stood their ground. In fact, the Law Minister has gone beyond his earlier suggestion of transferring a few chief justices. Now the proposal is to cover all.

The proposal has leaked out and it has created resentment among the chief justices and judges. They not only feel hurt by the suggestion that they are not independent but also fear that their functioning may suffer because of lack of knowledge of local languages and laws.

Israel steps up Lebanon raids

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Oct. 23

Undermined by international condemnation, Israel has in the past week stepped up its pre-emptive strikes against Palestinian targets inside Lebanon.

Today Israeli gunboats were said to be shelling targets around the port of Tyre, a Palestinian stronghold. The attack followed yesterday's heavy bombing of a Palestinian camp close to Beirut and last Thursday's infantry assault which killed about a dozen guerrillas based a few miles north of Israel's border.

Arab commentators explain the sudden display of Israeli military might as the unwillingness of the Carter Administration to upset the Jewish lobby so near to the American elec-

tion by voicing too much anger at the raids.

In fact, the State Department was quick to condemn last week's infantry assault, pointing out that American opposition to such pre-emptive strikes was well known. But Israeli strategic planners have been confident that American displeasure would not amount to more than the usual verbal complaints.

Leading Palestinian sources in Beirut have also accused Israel of trying "to profit" from the Gulf war, which has diverted attention by proceeding with its new policy of random attacks on Palestinian targets throughout Lebanon.

They have also accused Israel of trying to "profit" from the Gulf war, which has diverted attention by proceeding with its new policy of random attacks on Palestinian targets throughout Lebanon.

Israel has been accused of trying to test the Syrians in the wake of the recent friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

Senior military sources in Israel have been trying hard to play down the significance of the recent attacks, describing them as nothing out of the ordinary and part of the stated policy of attacking Palestinian bases at any time and in any place.

There is satisfaction in military circles at the outcome of the recent raids.

Army spokesmen claim that using intelligence — gathering techniques to pinpoint Palestinian targets and then hitting them without warning is significantly reducing Palestinian attacks against Israel.

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Hope and glory have an unfamiliar ring in Levene's early bird land

could be a demand for a world title contest between the British champion and Leonard, or Duran, or one of the other top welterweights, but what he would do is to do everything asked of him but never had the recognition, says that this magnificent opportunity was snatched from him at the beginning of the end of what used to be.

Moving on: Henry Rhinier, two former British European champion, I've had a good run but I want to give more time to my family."

He was a good fighter, but he was a good fighter in the factory in Luton. He took the British title from Pat Thomas in December 1976. His European title was won from a fight with a knocked out Joseph Fecsher in Australia, but lost the European title on his first defence when he was knocked out in the rounds at the Albert Hall in January, 1979. Three months later Kirkland, Lilling, and British title.

[illegible]

Should Liverpool not feel so disappointed they will go on to greater tests. The 5-1 victory of Bayern Munich over Ajax of Amsterdam, showed the current holders of the German and Intercontinental Milan's 2-1 win at Nantes was something to note. Bayern have scored 12 goals in their last five matches, and so far but the Dutch outsiders could be CSKA Sofia, 4-0 winners over Szombierki Bytom, the Polish team. If CSKA make the final, they will be playing Forest, their victims in the first round, will feel some comfort.

Basketball

US professional for Kelly Girl

Kelly Girl, of Kingston, have replaced their centre, Bill Phillips, with a new 6'ft. 10 1/2 centre, Leonard Gray, in 1978-79. Gray, for the United States professional team, Kansas City and from 1976 to 1978 for the Seattle SuperSonics. Kelly Girl are third in the league.

Gray becomes the second full United States professional to join the National League, sponsored by Kotary Watches this season. Gray is 7'2 of Orange, played for the world champions, Washington Bullets.

Brazil City's skipper Gerry Gow was away for the weekend to think about a proposed move to Manchester City. He visited Maine Road yesterday and passed a medical.

The clubs have agreed a fee of £175,000.

Spartan goalkeeper Mark Kendall has been released by Saturday Night Sports County for a fee of more than £40,000.

The Football Association are likely to turn down an approach from the French club for an international transfer to Stade de France in Buenos Aires on December 26.

Argentina, the World Cup holders, will be playing arranged friendlies against Brazil, Chile, the United States, Mexico, the Soviet Union and Paraguay, as part of their preparation for the tournament celebrating the 50th anniversary of the World Cup.

French manager Michel Hidalgo has picked experienced players from France and Portugal for his team.

A friendly match against the Republic of Ireland on October 28 in Paris.

Ireland lead group five with three matches left.

Players: Duggan (Ireland), Sturges (Wales), Williams (Scotland), Matthews (Northern Ireland), St-Hilaire, Michel (France), Riechers (Switzerland), Peltz (Austria), Platt (Belgium), Kerschbaum (Czech Republic), Kovacs (Hungary), Lacombe (Bulgaria), Roche (Spain), Gormley (Ireland), St-Hilaire (France).

Athletics

Rodgers's long running road show

New York, Oct. 23.—Bill Rodgers and Greta Waliz, the king and queen of long-distance racing, face new challengers on Sunday in the New York City Marathon, which has drawn a record field of 6,005.

Rodgers, the 32-year-old American record-holder, is seeking an unprecedented fifth consecutive victory in the 26-mile, 385-yard event, one of the most prestigious of marathons.

Miss Waliz, aged 27, a teacher from Oslo, Norway, has never lost a cross-country race or road race and has the fastest marathon time of women, and aims for her third New York triumph in a row.

Gerard Nijhar, of the Netherlands, won the Olympic silver medal in 1972. Rodgers's strongest runner is Finland's Lasse Viren, the 5,000 and 10,000 meters gold medalist in 1972 and 1976 Olympics, intends to make it his last race.—AP.

Athletics Rodgers's long running road show

The strain of it all: Susan Barker serves during her match against Dianne Fromholtz.

the served a double fault made two errors on the third, one on the forehand. Miles Barber, still later early in the second set, hit a backhand shot so low the man she might have been trying hard to an effort to prevent. Erasmovitch, from getting into a groove, Barber said she temporarily lost the knack winning the big points: "only get that by playing smart. I think she was afraid to let her big points get away. Milesjevans did not have a big point to play. She could have had a big point if she had a run of 11 consecutive points in this second set. Ifjevans scored only 19 points while Barber won 25. Barber served three double faults in game.

Virginia Kozick was 9-1 in the third set but lost to the more points to Sherry Alice Kalamazoo, whose tennis often impressive, although not as good as Barber's. The Narragansetts, who may have to respect for the conventions to them with any conviction, was the only two to get a good score, only two games from Mari Narragansetts.

break, he may be unable to get weight on Lewis' skates.

Locally, it appears that Princeton has a good chance of breaking the ice as a race-rid and of winning the Chin Amid Sunday afternoon race. The Luckow took afternoon on his or home, Allibar.

Allibar ran extremely well his first and only race in season at Worcester where he beat the best of the local boys. He has been winning elsewhere, however. Allibar is either being trained with next year's Glen National in mind, or the Sox are looking for a new pitcher, a pool for which he is not qualified. On the contrary, his objective is the long term; this season is the

Attivo goes to stud

Peter O'Sullivan's Attivo broke good luck again yesterday and will not race again. He will be retired to Elm St., Northamptonshire, where Mr. O'Sullivan's other mare, the lovely Friendly Venus, is.

Attivo won five races worth over £2,000 and in 1974 brought out a remarkable treble in the Daily Express Stakes, Hurst, the Deane Cup and the Northampton Handicap.

STATE OF GOING (official)
 Doncaster: Good to soft. Newbury: Good to soft.
 York: Good to soft. Carlisle: Heavy.
 Wetherby: Good. Cambridge: Good.
 Newcastle: Good to soft. Ascot: Firm.
 Sandown: Good to soft.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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[illegible]

William Hill Handicap

FIRST ACCEPTORS: Son Pleas, Ice-
lander, Buzz Feed, Rayne Royal, Mord
Burke, Whiskey, Rustle, Bave,
Buckeye, Bang, Belmont, Russian
George, Elm, Sun, Lark, Fido, Ro-
bin, Julia, Westminster, Abbey, Tri-
umph, Escapade, Good, Dingo, Ar-
thur, Major, Boy, Deep River, Smiley,
Champion, Oak, Peace,
Maid, Whispin, Dope, Frost, Al-
ma, Chalky Revolver, National Aid,
Ranger, Vain, Glenahawk, Mr. Solon.

Ab. Polish, Westminister Abbey, Cr.
 Bones, Percutane, Good Dye, Ho-
 -bor, -bor, Boy, Deep River, Embury
 -bor, -bor, Path Of Peace, Tal-
 -bor, -bor, Dutch, West, West's
 -bor, -bor, Chair, Rival, Navigation, Aid,
 -bor, -bor, Glen, -bor, -bor, Solon.

Page 10

Karamoja famine will return with a vengeance

Charles Harrison

The plunderers of Angkor Wat

100

India's war against malaria

short, to ordinary bl

*This is where the world's finest
single malt comes from.*

No single malt whisky is more
respected than Glenmorangie.
Produced since 1738 in a distillery

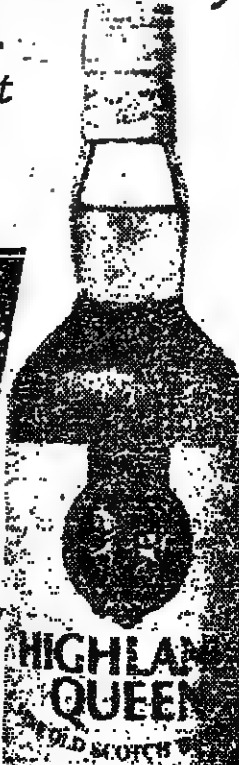
overlooking the Dornoch Firth, it remains today what it has always been. Virtually unrivalled for taste. And, hardly surprisingly, in somewhat limited supply.

Since 1894, however, the subtle pleasures of Glenmorangie have been available on a more generous scale.

It is to be found in a blended-whisky called Highland Queen. **This is where it goes.**

Produced very slowly, using time-honoured, not to say old-fashioned methods, Highland Queen contains a very high proportion of malt whisky.

It is, in short, to ordinary blends what Glenmorangie is to ordinary single malts.



HIGHLAND QUEEN

OLD SCOTCH

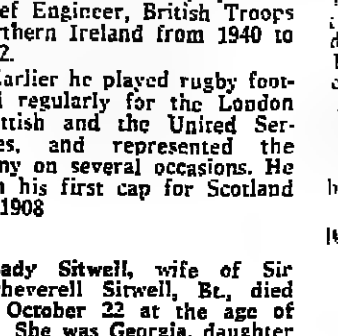
Caroline Moorehead
Charging households for water.
National Water Council, 1
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1; £1.

[illegible]

RUSKIN sat on the floor, his
populus before him. The camera
contains another populus, a list
of a man, unstable emotional
heavy drinker who con-
sidered suicide more than 50
years ago. The young man
known as the "Lovers" is Isadora
Duncan's lover.
Yesod is given to another
place of pilgrimage. There are
always fresh flowers, always
crowds. Late Sunday, as usual,
a man in grey, raincoat and
hat, the moment, fork, knife
and plate, and a waiter, some-
times a waiter, another place,
clapped, then another place,
man with sunken face and
nose, dropped his gaze, a grey-
ing, rendering of the man,
Yesod is back as a man
Yesod is back as a man
These words had shaped what
they were. They came as thou-

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

American
 boys
 stake in
 life

LAING
make ideas take shape

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Collapse of a famous French group, page 19

Stock Markets
FT Ind 4925.5, up 3.8
FT Gilt 7125, down 0.02

Sterling
\$2.4425, up 75 pts
Index 78.6, up 0.3

Dollar
Index 84.5, up 0.1
DM 1.8618, down 17 pts

Gold
\$373.50, down \$22

Money
3-mth sterling 16 1/4-16 1/2
3-mth Euro \$ 13 1/4-13 1/2
6-mth Euro \$ 13 1/4-13 1/2

IN BRIEF

5 African group buys 10 pc stake in Sun Life

A South African insurance company, Liberty Life Assurance Co of Africa, has bought 10 per cent shareholding in Sun Life, the old-established United Kingdom insurance company. The deal was worth £5m.

The shares represent the 25 per cent holding in Sun Life, which is a company, and was acquired from the Kuwait Investment Office.

A statement said: "It is not present contemplated that Liberty Life will participate in the direction of management of Sun Life."

A spokesman for Sun Life commented: "We regard this as a straight swap from one institutional investor to another. The Kuwaiti holding did not cause us problems. We have no reason to believe it is one."

DG bid for Giltspur

Transport Development Group is emerging as the mysterious bidder for Giltspur, in which Mr Maxwell Joseph has a 24 per cent stake. TDG is offering 100 shares at 15p, down from 25p, and a £50,000 loan stock 1985/2000 for every 100 shares in Giltspur.

Financial Editor, page 19

ar output down

United Kingdom car output in a first eight months was 7,332 compared with 7,533,099 year earlier, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Commercial vehicle production was down slightly to 286,908 in the first eight months.

verses investment

Institutional investors placed further £361m in overseas equities in the April-June quarter, after £519m in the first quarter. Total inflow into non-UK financial institutions in a period rose from £4,000m to £7,000m.

uilding Societies

Building societies net receipts in October are likely to exceed £10m compared with £443m in September but there is little sign of an early cut in interest rates as receipts in November are expected to be £250m as a consequence of the £100m (London National Savings) transactions, on sale on November 17.

terest rate demand

Government economic policy is under further attack today with demands from the British Institute of Management for early action to be taken to reduce interest rates.

SG chief sells out

Former BSG International chairman and chief executive Harry Cressman is severing remaining links with the company he built by selling his 1,000 shares.

Financial news, page 20

all Street down

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 339.51, down 61, on Wall Street yesterday. A dollar against the SDR was 1429 and the £SDR 0.534633.

Whitehall chief 'misled' MPs over appraisal of Polish ships contract

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

A senior civil servant has admitted that he misled Parliament's Public Accounts Committee over the circumstances surrounding the controversial £115m shipbuilding deal with Poland which has cost the taxpayer nearly £70m.

Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry and the department's accounting officer, in a letter to the committee stated: "I realize that I mistakenly implied that a cost benefit exercise had been done specifically for the Polish order."

He added: "I am sorry about this misunderstanding."

Sir Peter's letter appeared as an appendix to the committee's latest report published yesterday which criticized the Polish deal negotiated in 1977 by the Labour government. Under the contract, state-owned British Shipbuilders has built 24 vessels for Poland in a £115m deal. The ships are owned by a joint company formed by BS and a Polish shipping company which in turn operates the ships under charter.

At the time the contract was hailed by Labour ministers as providing a lifeline for the industry and was smoothed by the provision of a £28m subsidy to the shipbuilders. The shipbuilding industry had been in a state of crisis since the 1974-75 recession. The deal was expected to bring a loss of £24m but subsequently the loss rose to £40m. British shipbuilders were especially critical because they feared that the Poles would use the subsidized ships to undercut the United Kingdom merchant fleet.

When he appeared before the committee, Parliament's watchdog on public spending, on March 5 Sir Peter was asked if any attempt had been made to estimate the social and regional consequences of not taking the Polish order at the time of acceptance.

Sir Peter replied: "Yes, a benefit-cost analysis was done and was an opportunity cost exercise. It was done. It was available to ministers when they took the decision."

A further note submitted by the Industry Department on the resource cost analysis work which had been carried out in relation to the creation of the intervention fund noted that in the case of the Polish order, because of the shortage of relevant material simplifying assumptions had had to be made. The most important being that the ships would be allocated to yards which would probably achieve profitability within five years.

It is now possible, with hindsight, to see that, on the basis of the department's resource analysis, the total of intervention fund assistance and losses incurred on the contract of £68m must have passed the level at which it could be assumed that taking the order would produce a net benefit to the United Kingdom economy," the committee said.

The report also expressed concern that the £400m of Government support for British Shipbuilders last year was equivalent to an average subsidy of £4,300 on an average wage of £5,000 for each employee, taking into account the indirect benefit to the industry's suppliers.

Nineteenth Report from the Committee on Public Accounts, House of Commons paper 737, HMSO, £2.70.



Sir Peter Carey: apologies for misunderstanding.

they took the decision. It was part of the confidential advice that officials gave to ministers. Two months after he appeared before the committee, Sir Peter wrote to the PAC explaining that what he had in mind when he had answered the question was the full studies on the shipbuilding industry made before ministers decided to establish the intervention fund. It means through which the gap between the United Kingdom prices and those of foreign shipyard prices are narrowed through subsidy.

The recession, Sir Peter said, was foreseen and without the fund there would have been a precipitate collapse of the industry. The regional and social consequences of such a collapse and the resource costs of support were estimated.

"These studies were however confidential advice by officials to the previous administration which, under the established conventions, could not be disclosed to present ministers," he said.

"It was not feasible to carry out a resource cost analysis specific to the Polish order because British Shipbuilders had not at that time prepared their corporate plan and had not taken a firm view about the future prospects of the individual yards to which the ships were to be allocated."

£50m loan for UK nuclear plant

British Nuclear Fuels is to receive a £50m loan from the REC to help finance major works at Capenhurst, Cheshire. The money will go towards the cost of the company's share in the Urenco Gas centrifuge-uranium enrichment plant being built at Capenhurst in cooperation with German and Dutch interests.

The European Investment Bank, the REC's long-term finance agency has already given a £10m loan for the project. A £10m loan for telecommunications, water supply and sewerage development programmes were also announced.

The Post Office will be given £10m towards the cost of developing a submarine cable which will improve telecommunications links between Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and other Scandinavian countries.

A further £7.5m is being lent to the Severn-Trent Water Authority to meet part of the cost of its water supply and sewerage schemes. The North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board is to receive a £5m loan to help provide diesel generators and gas turbine units.

Financial Editor, page 19

Unchanged MLR puts more pressure on pound

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

The Government's decision to hold the minimum lending rate at 15 per cent for at least a fourth week put further upward pressure on sterling yesterday.

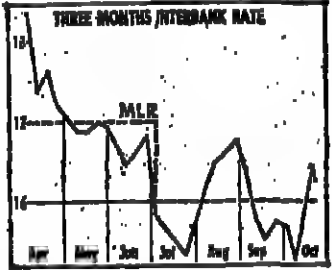
But speculation that this weekend would see moves towards the release of the American dollar from the gold price, in London the price closed \$22 down at \$637.5, its lowest since early September.

Newspapers reported that the Bank of England would not be cutting the minimum lending rate this week but a quick jump in the price of sterling, the pound moved up against the dollar to \$2.4515 before settling at \$2.4510.

News of the decision to hold the rate at 15 per cent was also a boost for the Japanese yen, which rose to 175 points at \$2.4425.

Sterling's trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies also moved to a new high for the year at 78.3, which was 0.3 higher. The pound made ground against most currencies, notably the Japanese yen; it rose to 175 points at \$2.4425.

In domestic markets the decision to hold MLR made little



impact on a largely lifeless gilt-edged market. Money markets remained tight, however, with one-week money continuing to trade above 15 per cent.

Once below the \$650 level in the bullion market, the price of gold continued to fall steadily until it reached \$333.3. It rallied slightly towards the London close but slipped \$28.50 in New York, closing at \$625.50.

Selling was largely attributed to the closing of long positions ahead of further moves towards the release of the American hostages in Iran. But there were also further rumours of Russian and Iranian selling.

Financial Editor, page 19

Bass offers £82.5m for Coral as Grand Met withdraws its bid

By Rosemary Unsworth

Bass, the brewing company, has stepped in with an £82.5m bid for Coral Leisure, the gaming, hotels and holiday camp group. The move comes minutes after Grand Metropolitan announced it would not pursue its proposed acquisition of Coral which was blocked by a Monopolies Commission reference last week.

Grand Met told the Monopolies Commission of its decision, leaving the way open for Bass, which, like Grand Met, is making an all-share offer of six Bass for 13 Coral shares.

Coral shares, which were suspended for part of the morning, rose 11p to 91p on the news which leaves a 7p discount on the offer price. The Bass share price slipped 5p to 212p.

The decision by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, to refer the Grand Met offer to the commission surprised Mr Maxwell Joseph's group, despite the fact that, if the deal had gone through, it would have owned 1,270 betting shops. These represent 17 per cent of the market in turnover terms.

The investigation is not automatically called off by Grand Met's withdrawal and the Office of Fair Trading is likely to keep a watchful eye on Coral and its predators.

Although the bid is agreed, Bass said last night that no decision about the future of Coral's management had been taken. That has got to be given full consideration and discussed with those concerned," a group spokesman said.

Under the Grand Met offer, Mr Nicholas Coral, the chairman, would have received a

£300,000 golden handshake. This angered some Coral shareholders, including Sir Fred Pontin, whose holiday camp business was acquired by Coral two years ago for £56m.

The stock market yesterday firmly believed that Bass's main reason for making the bid was to acquire Pontin's—described as "one of the biggest pubs in the world"—to extend its liquor outlets throughout the 24 camps.

Mr Francis Quaranta, secretary of Bass, said the betting side of Coral was outside the group's normal activity and that it would be looked at carefully before a full statement on policy went out with the offer document to shareholders.

Belhaven, the brewery group headed by Mr Eric Morley, has been tipped as a possible purchaser of the casino side which is under a cloud after losing three of its four London licences.

European Ferries has also shown interest in the gaming side of Coral. It has expressed a desire to move into the leisure arena.

Coral's Centre Hotels chain with its interests in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, where Bass also has hotels, was also the subject of bid talks earlier this year with Tai, the Indian hotels group. A price of £31m was suggested but negotiations stopped when Grand Met made its approach.

The division is unlikely to contribute more than £2m profit to Coral's estimated £15m pre-tax profits this year but Bass, as the third largest hotel group in the United Kingdom, is considered likely to pull it round if the bid is successful.

Financial Editor, page 19

Pergamon deal escapes referral

By Catherine Gunn

The strike of almost one third of BPC (formerly the British Printing Corporation) snapped off by Mr Robert Maxwell's private publishing group Pergamon Press in a stock market dawn raid last July is not to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

It was announced yesterday. Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, made the official announcement after BPC was told privately on Wednesday night.

The acquisition of 29.5 per cent of BPC was referred for investigation by the Office of

Fair Trading in August because the OFT said it constituted a merger, qualifying for a reference under the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Mr A. A. Harman, BPC company secretary, said last night: "We have noted the decision. The board will have to consider the position when it next meets."

Mr Robert Maxwell said: "I am delighted at being completely vindicated by the Office of Fair Trading and the ministerial decision not to refer it to the Monopolies Commission."

"I now await the board's response to my invitation to hold dignified discussions about how to put this company right."

BPC's profits last year tumbled from £7.5m to £4.2m, and it lost £6.54m pre-tax in the first half of 1980.

Mr Maxwell is no stranger to BPC, which was joint owner of International Learning Systems Corporation (ILSC) with Pergamon from 1969 to 1972 when BPC took ILSC over completely.

Mr Nott's decision does not automatically clear the way for a full scale bid for BPC from Pergamon. "Any change in the situation would be looked at individually," a spokesman for the Department of Trade said.

Consumer spending down 24 pc

By Melvyn Westlake

Consumers were cutting back their spending further during the summer, according to Government figures published yesterday.

In real terms, consumer expenditure dropped by about 24 per cent, at an annual rate, during the third quarter. It is the second consecutive quarter in which there has been a fall.

However, the latest drop was much less than that seen during the first two periods when the real level of consumer expenditure fell at an annual rate of 11 per cent.

Reductions in spending appear to have been made across a wide range of items. Shopping in the high street has been particularly hit. Beer consumption is also down quite substantially. However, registrations of motor vehicles indicate that the level of car purchases may have actually increased.

About half of all consumer spending is on retail goods. The balance is largely made up of spending on housing, fuel and light, travel, beer and spending on cars. Of these, housing, fuel and light and travel (commuter and business) tend to be unavoidable items of expenditure, and are not, therefore, of a volatile nature.

But it is on these items that prices have risen fastest. Mortgage repayments, utility tariffs and fares have all risen steeply and this has probably forced people to reduce their purchases of more discretionary kind.

Recent figures for retail business showed a marked fall in the real level of spending on household goods, furnishings, clothing, footwear and food.

But the overall level of consumer spending this year has not shown a drop on the average of 1979.

The fall of the fall has been compressed into the second and third quarters of this year, and followed a sharp increase in the first three months. This could mean that a very substantial drop is now likely in the final quarter. The Treasury has forecast an overall fall of 1 per cent between 1979 and 1980.

Table, page 20

Non-metal tailplane tested

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

A commercial airliner, with some parts made from a graphite epoxy composite instead of traditional aerospace metals, has been flown by Boeing.

The lead-carrying section of the horizontal tailplane of a Boeing 737 was made of the composite instead of aluminium. Boeing said yesterday that the structure reduced the overall weight of the tailplane by 120 pounds and that this would reduce fuel consumption.

Certification of the modification by the Federal Aviation Administration was expected by the middle of next year, the company said. It plans to equip

five 737s with the new stabilisers and deliver them to airlines when certification is granted.

The modification is a result of a 55m co-sharing contract between Boeing and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

The contract is part of a Nasa aircraft energy efficiency programme. It wants to cut air transport fuel use through advanced technology.

Mr Stan Harvey, director of the composites programme at Boeing, said yesterday that the switch to composites from metals for primary structures was similar to the transition in the early days of aviation from fabric to metal.

A disagreement with Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, then Secretary of State, led to his return full-time to the UKAEA as deputy chairman with little chance, it seemed at the time, of ever succeeding to the chairmanship.

Since ceasing to be chief scientist, he continued to head a group reporting on combined heat and power schemes which recommended that a project should go ahead.

Mr Marshall is a committed supporter of the fast reactor but has been careful not to push for the early building of a commercial demonstration plant.

At Harwell he directed scientists more and more into commercial work. Dr Marshall prides himself on being a businessman as well as a scientist.

Dr Marshall steps up to head UKAEA

By Nicholas Hirst, Energy Correspondent

Dr Walter Marshall is to succeed Sir John Hill as chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. He takes up the five-year appointment on February 22.

Sir John, who has been chairman for 13 years, is to continue as part-time chairman of British Nuclear Fuels, which controls the Windscale reprocessing plant, and the Radiochemical Centre. He had asked for his last reappointment as chairman of the UKAEA to last for only three years until he reached 60.

The appointment of Dr Marshall, who has been deputy chairman since 1975, reinforces the Government's preference for continuing the British nuclear power programme with the American-designed pressurised water reactor (PWR) in place of the British advanced gas-cooled system.

Dr Marshall became convinced of the superiority of the PWR over the British design in 1976 after completing a four-year study of the safety of the pressure vessel containing a PWR's radioactive core. Since then he has been one of its most ardent advocates. The position of chairman of the UKAEA makes him chief adviser on nuclear energy to the Secretary of State for Energy.

The Government intends to hold a public inquiry into the building of the first PWR, now expected to be ordered in 1983 at the earliest.

Dr Marshall had a brilliant early career. After gaining a first in mathematical physics at Birmingham University and his doctorate two years later he rose rapidly in the UKAEA to become head of theoretical physics at the Harwell research establishment at the age of 28.

He later achieved his life's ambition by becoming director of Harwell in April 1968, a post he gave up after taking the then part-time position of chief scientist at the Department of Energy in 1974.

A disagreement with Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, then Secretary of State, led to his return full-time to the UKAEA as deputy chairman with little chance, it seemed at the time, of ever succeeding to the chairmanship.

Since ceasing to be chief scientist, he continued to head a group reporting on combined heat and power schemes which recommended that a project should go ahead.

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Murray Glendevon Investment Trust Limited

Emphasis on gearing for capital growth

Annual results for the year ended 31 July, 1980

	1980	1979
Equity shareholders' interest	£15,313,642	£12,382,773
Asset value per share	147.7p	119.5p
Revenue available for ordinary shareholders	£308,414	£221,559
Earnings per ordinary share	3.09p	2.24p
Ordinary dividend per share	2.55p	2.10p
Capitalisation issue in B ordinary shares	1.79555%	1.80098%

Geographical distribution of investments at 31 July, 1980

	1980	1979		1980	1979
UK	35.70%	36.59%	Europe	2.50%	4.71%
North America	23.71%	25.99%	South Africa	0.83%	—
Japan and Asia	14.90%	15.00%	Brazil	0.63%	1.37%
			Bonds	78.27%	83.66%
				21.73%	16.34%
				100.00%	100.00%

Future investment policy

In accordance with the decision to diverge the investment policies of the five investment trusts managed by Murray Johnstone, the main feature of the policy for this company will be the maintenance (when the investment climate seems suitable) of an above average level of gearing. Capital gearing of around 15 per cent is our present target.

It is intended to maintain a balanced international portfolio based primarily on the UK and the US with significant interests in Japan, the Far East, Australia and Europe. In order to increase the amount of franked income, the proportion invested in the UK is likely to be increased to a small extent at the expense of the lower-yielding overseas investments.

The policy of investing in smaller, well-managed companies, which has been successful in the past year or two, will be continued, but in view of the increased gearing now proposed a proportion of the portfolio will be in more marketable investments.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Secretary, Murray Glendevon Investment Trust Limited, 163 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 2UH. An Investment Trust managed by Murray Johnstone Limited.



PRICE CHANGES

Leisure	9p to 91p	Kelley Ind	25p to 180p
Pat Leasure	35p to 24p	Petaling Ind	25p to 460p
Wall Nat Res	25p to 253p	Sainsbury L	20p to 415p
Univ Stores	20p to 472p	Wholesale L	20p to 545p
Thomson	17p to 377p		

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buy	sell	buy	sell
2.12	2.05	12.39	11.84
33.40	31.60	124.00	118.60
75.00	71.30	146.20	140.50
2.01	1.94	154.50	147.50
14.38	13.78	10.57	10.12
9.40	8.95	4.75	4.38
16.77	16.32	2.42	2.07
103.00	103.00	74.50	74.50
12.50	11.95		
1.24	1.19		
225.00	215.00		
354.00	340.00		
5.07	4.84		

One in five men would refuse to work for a woman

Rooting out office chauvinism

Equality of the sexes may still be some way off in the office, but it is getting nearer. Or so it would seem from a new survey of the attitudes of male office workers.

It reveals that a fifth of them would turn down a job if their boss was to be a woman. The number of objections rises to 29 per cent among separated, divorced and widowed men, and 32 per cent among those over 56 years old.

The Alfred Marks Bureau, which conducted the survey, points out that it would be simple to label the 20 per cent not prepared to work under a woman as male chauvinists, but it is quick to add that they should have their opportunity to put forward their reasons.

For 31 per cent of the men, it seems that their objection is not women bosses are too emotional. Some 28 per cent think they would get on better with male bosses, and 19 per cent believe simply that a woman's place is in the home.

The bureau's chairman, Mr Bernard Marks, commented: "Whether justified or not, to change men's attitudes, women will have to keep the tightest control over their emotions in the workplace if they are to succeed."

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

ICI after the loss

It was a case of rickety through the debris of ICI's third-quarter figures yesterday (which had been advanced by a month in view of their awfulness) looking for evidence of whether the situation is as bad—or worse—than had been anticipated.

In the event, a loss of £10m, including exchange rate losses of £7m against a profit of £15m in the same quarter last year, did not surprise the stock market, though it is the first time that ICI has returned a quarterly deficit. The shares gained 8p to 330p.

This prospect had been well rehearsed, most recently when the group disclosed the extent of its losses in fibres. The underlying problems of lack of demand in chemicals and textiles made sense of the stock market's reaction during the period, and the collapse of export margins caused by the strength of sterling are well understood. Against these, even a buoyant contribution from the Ninian Field (£24m net) could not prevent an overall loss.

What encouraged the market was that ICI still intends maintaining the dividend this year, and that despite the view that the trading trend remains largely unaltered.

So far this year the deterioration has been dramatic: quarter-by-quarter profits have been £15m, £7m and now the £10m loss. The market now has to take account of whether this drift has been arrested and to take account of the longer-term effects on the business. ICI will make provisions associated with the contraction of its activities of £150m this year; capital spending sanctions are expected to be around half the £50m of 1979.

The optimistic assumption is that conditions will be improving markedly by the first quarter of next year. If anything happens to suggest that is wrong, and by implication that a yield of nearly 10 per cent is anything other than real support for the shares at this level could fall away.

The absence of an MLR cut had the predictable effect on sterling yesterday. The dollar rate closed 75 points up at \$2.425 and the pound's trade-weighted index rising 7.3 to 78.6. If there was any comfort to be had it was perhaps that the sellers were quick to come in, above the \$2.45 level.

Today promises to be tight again in money markets with a £425m call on Exchequer 2 per cent 1988. A 2 per cent note is probably due to start to become a little easier next week, though with so much official help to be unwound, it is very much a relative term at the moment.

Meanwhile, institutional investment figures for the April-June quarter point to a building of institutional liquidity and further investment overseas. Investment in overseas equities was, in fact, slightly down in the first quarter, but the implication of recent money supply figures would seem to be that the momentum may have been stepped up once more in the third quarter. Fund managers are probably more confused than ever at the moment as to the medium-term prospects for sterling, but there is certainly no shortage these days of broker advice on international investment and portfolio management.

Coral Now Bass takes its claim

Island Monopolistic had no sooner decided that it was not going to fight its bid through the Monopolistic Commission than it jumps Bass as a savior for Coral. With much less overlap in their businesses, there seems less danger of this bid being referred through there is always the chance that the commission will use the size of assets, criteria as an excuse for the more searching look at betting and gaming. Whitehall bankers agree.

As it is Bass has been under no pressure to improve on Grand Mer's terms, which had already been accepted by more than one-fifth of Coral shareholders as a reasonable solution to the group's problems, and its 6-for-13 share offer is the same as Grand Mer's valuing Coral at 98p a share or £24m. The bid makes a financial sense as Grand Mer's particularly as Coral's revalued at assets of £34.8m are being in line with the bid value as its £20m of borrowings will not unbalance Bass's gearing.

The all share offer has probably been dictated by the high level of capital spending.

Mr Derek Rainor, chairman and chief executive of Bass.

as an outlet for beer sales, where in the light of this year's likely drop in demand, Bass could be left with excess capacity, and Coral's Centre Hotels for which Bass has been a long-term bidder.

Hotels have so far been a more successful diversification for Bass than other moves away from beer for the rest of the brewers but against that Bass has been one of the purest beer investments and investors may well look askance at seeing this diluted.

Gill & Duffus Returning to a growth path

Despite a year which posed problems in chemicals trading and the Brazilian operations, Gill & Duffus has managed to reverse last year's profit fall and set itself on a growth course again. Estimated group profit for the first half of 1980 is £21m against the actual outturn last year of £20m, and if experience is a guide, the estimate is conservative.

A return to profit on the United States processing side has helped, and trading in cocoa, coffee and rubber has been good, although cocoa and coffee prices have been depressed. Rubber was particularly successful in the first half, though the results are no where near as good as those returned by Guinness Peat.

What should give Gill & Duffus a boost in the coming year is expansion into new areas. The chemicals will pay off when industrial demand picks up, and there are ambitions for financial returns both here and in the United States, which could produce pre-tax profits up to £25-26m next year.

A 20 per cent increase in the dividend to 12p, gross for the year puts the shares at 188p on a 5.3 per cent yield, where they seem fairly valued.

Monday's mysterious bidder for Gilstar, where Mr Maxwell Joseph owns a commanding 24 per cent stake, turns out to be the Transport Development Group. The offer, a package of shares and loan stock, is worth around 115p per Gilstar share and has received a less than enthusiastic backing from Mr Joseph who says he will accept it in the absence of anything better.

The bid values each Gilstar share on a 10p basis of around 13p, on fully-diluted profits for the current year. With the shares standing at 110p, the offer is a counter-bidder. That may be one reason why the bid seems reasonable on earnings grounds, but it is not far above asset value of 89p a share which does not sound such good value for what is essentially a services company.

Gilstar's half of whose profits come from display and exhibition work is also strong in freight, packaging and motor distribution, all areas which are of interest to IDG. Should Leyland come out of hibernation, the motor interest could be especially interesting. So outside shareholders risk losing little by sitting tight.

Manufrance, one of the great French industrial institutions, has finally collapsed. Ian Murray reports.

Death of the Old Lady of St Etienne

The last managing director, M Bernard Tapie, bought all seven of ex-Emperor Bokassa's castles in France and promised to give the profit from their resale to Unicef.

known as "the Great Families" which between them ruled over the company until 1974.

The rule of the great families was laissez faire in the extreme. What had been good enough for M Etienne was good enough for them. Old work practices were perpetuated, the catalogue was never modified, and union demands were always met to avoid trouble. Nobody seemed to want to realize that the Old Lady really needed some new clothes and servants if she was not to become dowdy and outmoded.

There is no denying that she was in robust good health, for despite everything, it was not until 1975 that the first tiny deficit appeared on the trading account—one of 4.3m francs on an annual turnover of 571m.

Nobody seemed particularly worried and the son and daughter of the families continued to turn up for the twice yearly shareholders' meeting armed with a small suitcase in which to carry away their dividends which were always paid in cash. Things could not continue

like that for long, however. Outside the sanctuary-like walls of Manufrance unemployment in the area was growing rapidly and as a consequence the communist vote was growing, as is always the case in France. In 1977 a communist town council was elected which meant that the party was now the largest single shareholder. From then on the writing was on the wall, along with all the other graffiti sprayed on the factory buildings. No private money was really interested in the risk.

Between 1975 and May of this year six different managing directors arrived at great white hopes for the salvation of the company, only to leave disillusioned by union intransigence and government unwillingness and public apathy.

Since May much has happened, most of it undignified, in desperate attempts to save the company. The last chapter was written during September when a young Bordeaux businessman called M Jean-Claude Dumas—with an interesting but unsuccessful career in public relations, Caribbean radio and telephone answering services—behind him—claimed that he had persuaded a Swiss banking consortium to put up the necessary money. He convinced Judge Bourcard, who granted a stay of execution which lasted until Tuesday when it became obvious that the Swiss were not prepared to throw good money after bad.

So the company is now left in the hands of the last in a long line of managing directors—M Bernard Tapie who at 36 claims to have saved 11 companies and 1,750 jobs in the course of an amazingly full life. He now drives a Rolls-Royce, but his way to the top has been as an electrical engineer, a singer and a racing driver. His one hit song as a singer was later used as the theme music for John Wayne's film *The Green Berets*.

A year ago he hit the headlines when he bought for 12m francs (about £1.35m) all seven castles in France of former Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic and promised to give the profit from their resale to Unicef.

He now has the job as undertaker for the Old Lady, because he was managing director of Manufrance, not of its management company, which is the one that was wound up on Tuesday. His most saleable asset is the company's newspaper, *Le Chasseur Français*, which had sales of half a million in its heyday and whose classified advertisement columns are the best known lonely hearts club in France. The Old Lady down the years has been a very considerable matchmaker.

M Tapie's plan basically is to sell off the viable parts of the company and to try to interest established companies in incorporating different sections inside their concerns. If all goes well, he expects to be able to offer the company's creditors their 500m francs back over the next 15 years. The debt has been growing at 10m francs a day recently.

But the real tragedy of the Old Lady's death is that she has left 1,875 "orphans"—all that is left of a staff of more than 4,000 two years ago. M Tapie hopes to find work for 1,000 of them.

The government is now coming forward with a series of aid programmes for the area, but Saint Etienne, which has lived on the Old Lady's largesse for generations, faces a grim immediate future.



Technology

The 'brain' behind Britain's air defences

This air defence operator's console is typical of the equipment now being developed for the Ukage: command and control system by Plessey, Marconi Radar and Hughes Aircraft.

In the elegant technology of defence, the obvious elements include radar stations to detect an enemy attack and missiles, and missile interceptors, to deal with it. Less obvious to the lay person is the command and control network that underpins the complete system, taking the radar data in at one end and despatching an aircraft or missile at the other.

If the radars are the eyes and ears of a nation's air defence, the command and control system is its brain, feeding instructions to the first that delivers the defensive punch. Time was when the command and control system consisted of Sir Francis Drake being told of the approach of the Spanish Armada and completing his game of bowls before setting out from Plymouth. Things are now less leisurely and more complicated.

The elegant phrase "Air Defence Command and Control" (Adcc) has been coined to describe the information and control systems on the ground which match the incoming threat in the air with the appropriate response. The NATO-wide system introduced in the 1960s was known as Nade, and the improved United Kingdom one which is now being implemented is known as Ukage.

Two companies were invited to tender for the Ukage contract, which is worth about £100m over a five-year period.

implementation of the programme.

Their starting point is the following assessment: "The main air threat to the United Kingdom in the foreseeable future will consist of increasing numbers of high-speed aircraft fitted with modern electronic counter-measures (ECM) equipment, able to operate at high or low levels and to approach the United Kingdom from any direction.

To meet this growing threat, the United Kingdom air defences require improved air space surveillance, weapon systems and command and control facilities. New ground radars and the Nimrod airborne early-warning (AEW) aircraft will provide the improved surveillance, the Tornado F2 interceptors and surface-to-air missiles will provide weapons and the improved Ukage will provide the essential new command and control capability."

Essentially, the Ukage system is based on a distributed data-processing network that will speed up and amplify the supply of information to the air defence controllers. Automated systems will be installed at a number of underground operational control centres, fed by radar surveillance covering an area of four million square miles and linked to adjacent countries' air defence authorities.

Leading the UKSL effort in London is Mr Emmett Burnett, chief executive officer of the

company. Mr Burnett comes from Hughes, his main unit of staff seconded from the three parent companies (Hughes, Marconi and Plessey) and from Thomson-CSF.

The London team, which will grow to about 100 people, will handle overall systems design and integration and programme management. It will place sub-contractors with the four companies for the development and supply of their respective sub-systems.

Marconi will provide the display console, including software and voice communications. Plessey will supply digital data communications, including software, and a four-colour indicator for the display console. Hughes will provide the central data-processing equipment and software and a large screen display.

Thomson-CSF will provide additional engineering expertise and will manufacture some equipment under subcontract to UKSL and its parent companies.

Mr Burnett stresses that the Ukage design is based to a large extent on hardware and software that is already available. By adopting a modular approach the aim is to provide flexibility—both in implementing the basic system and in adapting to changing factors during its operational life.

As well as increasing the speed and capacity of the air defence system, a significant improvement in the new Ukage

installation will arise from the fact that the range of functions that the operator can perform. This will be done by software. Another new feature is the introduction of colour displays in this particular role.

Future development will be based on the modular approach to hardware (more processors can be added as required) and by the ability to change software independently of hardware changes.

For Mr Burnett and his project management team, a main task will be to knit together the individual contributions of the subcontractors. Precise synchronization of the three main companies' programmes will be essential and in this end a standard reporting system is being devised. UKSL staff will direct the programme from a special control room to the company's London headquarters and others will monitor progress and problems at the subcontractors' premises.

There is more to the task than simply ensuring that the technical design meets the operational requirement. Mr Burnett points out. The operational implications must be appreciated: some factors are genuinely fixed, in time, while others might change.

Thus the answer must be an evolving system, both in implementation and in use. A too rigid system would be dangerous.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Offshore, off the peg • Sir Geoffrey and Mrs O

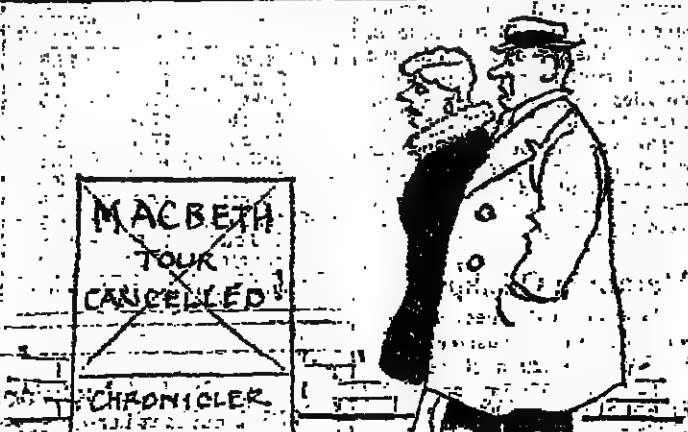
critics of university research workers are in for a surprise this week, for the allegedly "academic" have come off rather well in the market place. They are making a strong bowing at Europe II, the conference and exhibition now taking place at Earls Court.

Among the stands devoted to attracting goodie from the most of oil reserves and of preventing the fouling of ships, pipelines and platforms.

Whereas on show include methods of wringing the most of oil reserves and of preventing the fouling of ships, pipelines and platforms.

The National Consumer Council has secured the agreement of Sir Geoffrey, the conductor of the Exchequer, to address the National Consumer Congress it is planning for next April.

There is some poignancy about the engagement. Sir Geoffrey was the first minister appointed in Britain in the more optimistic



"If we can no longer export Shakespeare the economy really is up the creek."

times of the Heath government, based about the country opening up consumer advice centres. The centres have been closed in scores since the Government ended its grants and imposed cash limits on local authorities.

If this suggests that Sir Geoffrey may not have an easy time of it, the present minister for consumer affairs, was booted at this year's national consumer congress in Sheffield, where she berated the National Consumer Council for meddling in taxation policy, which, she said, should be none of its concern. A budget is likely to be imminent when Sir Geoffrey speaks.

a 960 square kilometre former Portuguese colony in the Atlantic off the coast of Gabon, West Africa.

Carlo Gomes, Sao Tome's Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, is visiting London on behalf of his president, Dr Manuel Pinto Da Costa. Among the people at the dinner will be seeing is Sir Richard, former Labour Minister of Power and then of Transport, and now chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association.

Richard, together with Willy Wilder, managing director of VIP Travel, want to interest British interests in developing and servicing a 200-bed hotel and tourist development on the island.

This Wilder says, could draw either on minded tourists from Western Europe, often from the drilling rigs along the West African coast or Nigeria's nouveau riche.

Wilder first met Gomes when the latter was head of his country's resident purchasing mission here. The hotel cannot be too big, he says, as the island's population is about 70,000 at the last count.

Mrs Thatcher's exhortation to car workers to make products so good that fellow workers will buy them, rather than those made abroad has the ring of conviction. After all, is there not a Fiat Strada in the service of her fellow worker, David Howell, the Energy Secretary? It could belong to the Howell's as well, I suppose.

Now the protagonists have



agreed to live amicably in joint ownership—for the time being at least. Sir Peter declared yesterday.

Sir Peter came to TNT when it merged with his old company, Altrans, in 1967. In recent months he has been running Ansett in the absence of joint managing director Murdoch in the United States.

Meanwhile, the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal has refused to approve the increased Murdoch stake in Ansett, but an appeal is on the cards.

Kings Hussain of Jordan's none-too-subtle support for Iraq in its conflict with Iran is not confined to mere military matters.

That eminently refined hotel chain Sheraton has just found that when the King speaks, his word is answered in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

The place has been flooded with Iraqi business people and their families seeking a quieter life than that now available in Baghdad. Some are paying £500 or so for the rough and ready cab ride into Jordan's dusty capital.

Sheraton was due to open a new hotel on behalf of a local owner in a month's time but, on the direct orders of the king, the unfinished Amman Sheraton has been occupied by refugees from Iraq.

Ross Davies

CHRISTIE'S IN THE CITY

CHRISTIE-RESTELL

Fine Wines at Beaver Hall

28 October 1980

12 noon at Beaver Hall

Large trade stocks of French and German wines, with an extensive in-bond section; vintage Port, classed-growth Claret, Burgundy, vintage Champagne and other fine wines.



8 King Street, London SW1X 9QT Tel: 01-839 9060.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Bad news from ICI fails to daunt many buyers

The market remained in confident mood yesterday and was able to shrug off the unchanged MLR and news of losses from ICI.

Jobbers reported strong buying and a general increase in volume but admitted that the buying remained selective. The institutions were obviously remaining cautious in such a thin market and were sticking to the familiar sectors of oils, electricals and stores.

Stock shortages again gave a somewhat exaggerated slant to most price movements, although strong two way business was reported in ICI where more than 2 million shares changed hands. This followed a statement by the company forecasting losses of about £10m for the third quarter. However, the subsequent warning on the dividend saw the shares dip to 318p before recovering to 330p, a net rise of 8p on the day.

The market was also treated to some fairly lively news on the bid front, where shares of Coral Leisure were suspended at 92p. The news that Bass had decided to bid £84m saw the shares jump 9p to 91p on being re-quoted while Bass itself eased 7p to 210p. Grand Met, the pre-

vious suitor, has decided to drop out after the reference to the Monopolies Commission and its shares rose 3p to 160p.

Business after hours continued to be brisk and the FT Index, which had climbed 3.4

Stand by for some bullish news from Plessey next week. Word is the group is now ready to announce a major new telecommunications contract. Investors were not slow to react yesterday, the shares rose 10p to 275p.

at noon, eventually closed at its high for the day 3.8 at 492.5. Gilts spent a quiet day seemingly unperturbed by the decision to leave MLR unchanged at 16 per cent. Investors were content to sit on the sidelines awaiting the call of £425m later today. As a result prices, after fluctuating in a thin market all day, closed unchanged across the list.

Leading industrialists continued to climb in line with the rest of the market, although little interest was shown. Rank jumped 10p to 180p, following favourable third-quarter figures from Xerox, while Unilever, awaiting

figures next month, eased 8p to 473p. Elsewhere, Glaxo rose 6p to 242p, Fisons 3p to 158p and Bowater 1p to 178p.

Shares of Glaxo rose 5p to 110p after hours following the £20m bid from Transport Development, down 1p to 79p. Laurence Scott added 3p to 57p as the bid from Mining Supplies went unconditional.

Hanson Trust firmed another 6p to 183p on the back of its recent £74m United States acquisition, with International Thomson rising another 17p to 377p over its decision to sell Times Newspapers.

The leisure sector came to prominence after the latest Coral bid. Plessey's strengthened 2p to 173p along with Horizon Travel, up 7p to 332p. Saga Holidays 20p better at 206p on news of interim profits 20 per cent higher. Only Ladbroke went against the trend sliding 5p to 229p.

Shares of F.J.C. Lilley showed initial nervousness after the announcement of a £2.2m rights issue, but recovered to close 4p up at 92p as the market approved of the satisfactory trading figures. But it was less impressed with the interim statement from Gill & Duffus, 8p lower at 188p. In the mean-

time, satisfactory profits saw BSG International rise 11p to 15p. McKechie Bros 2p to 110p, and Spencer Gears 2p to 165p.

Recent trading news had Duport 31p better at 24p and

Not everyone was pleased with the recent figures from Hawker Siddeley, judging by the line of shares which went through the market yesterday at 237p. Nevertheless, the shares were eventually able to shrug off the setback, closing 6p higher at 238p.

Pressac up 5p at 28p, but Hoversham slipped another 2p to 54p.

Speculative attention saw Polly Peck gain 4p to 134p. Kelsey Industries 25p to 180p and London United Industries 13p to 188p. But Blue Circle dipped 2p to 32p on the plan for redundancies.

Favourable comment was good for a 6p rise in Christies International to 232p, with Sotheby's adding 8p to 525p. Electricals gathered support particularly the majors, with GEC up 12p to 568p. Racal 3p to 347p and STC 12p to 475p. But Telephone Rentals eased 8p to 273p in the wake of recent

up 3p at 837p. Burmah 1p to 200p, and Tricentral 8p to 408p, but profit-taking had Ultramar 3p higher at 480p.

Banks had a relapse following the decision to leave MLR at 16 per cent and prices were marked down accordingly. Midland stumbled 10p to 343p, Barclays 3p to 453p. Lloyds 5p to 338p and National Westminster 5p to 410p.

Gold shares reacted to the lower bullion price with some heavy falls, particularly at the dearer end of the market. Anglo American Gold fell £1 to £537. W. D. & H.O. Wills £1 to £411. St. Helens £1 to £137. At the cheaper end, Westfarms fell 40p to 40c, Grovick 20p to 57p, Rand Mines 20p to 333p and Kinross 25p to 678p. In mining financials, Consolidated Gold Fields fell 13p to 623p and RTZ lost 7p to 488p.

Insurance shares had Sun Life up a further 2p to 244p as word of a large dividend of 4.6m shares was confirmed. The Kuwait Investment Office has sold its 10 per cent stake in South African Life at 252p a share. Pearl Assurance was in good form, rising 14p to 464p, while the rest of the sector closed mixed.

Equity turnover on October 22 was £199,347m (17,809 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were 4,657. Ultramar, Hawker Siddeley, KCA, Int. Attock and BHS.

Traded Options: Total contracts fell from 3,498 to 1,681. 82 led the field on 100 contracts followed by Marks & Spencer on 306.

Traditional options had a busy declaration day with calls in Town & City on 24p, and Double Eagle on £2. A put was arranged in Marks & Spencer at 100 cents.

Hopes of a rise in the price of crude oil set the scene for another busy day in oils although profit-taking saw prices below their best at the close. Shell was higher at 46p, along with Shell up 4p to 46p. Gains were also seen in Lasso,

F.J.C. Lilley to raise £3.3m by rights issue

By Margaret Pagano

To finance acquisitions under negotiation in Britain and the United States, F.J.C. Lilley of Glasgow yesterday announced a rights issue to raise £3.3m.

The shares rose 4p to 92p on the news which also told of interim pre-tax profits for the six months to July up to £2.7m. This compares with £1.4m in the same period last year. Turnover rose to £47.3m compared with £38.4m.

In a sector that has been reporting a downturn in margins, the construction and house-building group, with activities declared in interim gross dividend up 16.9 per cent to 2.5p against 2.2p last year. A similar increase is forecast for the final figures to be about 5 per cent higher in real terms.

The issue is on the basis of one-for-four shares at 25p a share and involves the issue of 4.6m shares. The additional finance, Mr. Aitken said, is for planned development in the home market and the United States. This includes acquisition of a 10 per cent stake in a South African Life at 252p a share. Pearl Assurance was in good form, rising 14p to 464p, while the rest of the sector closed mixed.

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No BSG payout as tough trading brings big loss

By Philip Robinson

BSG International, one of Britain's largest car dealers, which voted out its chairman, Mr. Harry Crossman, earlier this month, has plunged into the red, revealing its interim dividend and pre-tax loss.

The group's three-year loss of £20.0m, together with its £20.0m loss in the year ended June 30, 1979, has brought its total losses to £40.0m. The group's turnover rose to £47.3m compared with £38.4m in the six months to the end of June for the car dealer and accessories maker, which earns the bulk of its profits from United Kingdom vehicle distribution.

BSG's interim dividend of 2.5p, a 16.9 per cent increase on last year's 2.2p, was accompanied by the closure of 150 shops in Oxford, Stamford Hill and Hendon, the sales figures in real terms.

The shares hardened a penny to 92p on the news, giving BSG a 50p market price. The 4.6m shares have been up 4p to 92p this year. The current price has already taken account of expected losses and is held up on vague hopes of a takeover.

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half to £20m, reducing its year-end loss from £16.6m to £16.6m.

The group has already closed the Vauxhall and Volkswagen dealerships in Stoke where the group's three-acre site is for sale at between £500,000 and £750,000. Together with its Vauxhall dealership in Epsom, the merger of a loss-making Ford parts operation with near-by dealership in Birmingham, should be reduced by £15m.

Mr. Crossman said: "It will take some time for this to show through. But by about next March we should see some benefits."

Meanwhile, all of the group's operations are being reviewed. Mr. Crossman said: "This time was due to deteriorating conditions in the United Kingdom car market and reduced margins. Profits are split 50/50 between cars and accessories. But it is thought that closure of its manufacturing operations, which include the British-built Vauxhall, is less likely than the closure of dealerships largely because they are more difficult to shut."

At the trading level, the group is making a small profit. A breakdown reveals that the United Kingdom, West Germany and the Netherlands are just in profit, but France, where a problem area is supply of car mirrors, and the 18-month-old United States subsidiary are both in loss. Its subsidiaries, aircraft seats and galleys, and nuts and bolts distributors all increased trading profits.

Overseas interests lift McKechie Brothers

By Roman Esterman

In spite of the severity of the recession, McKechie Brothers, the non-ferrous metals processor and chemical engineer, has managed to report higher results for the third quarter.

The group's turnover rose to £11.1m in the third quarter, up from £10.1m in the second. The group's profit rose to £1.1m, up from £0.8m in the second quarter. The group's profit before tax rose to £1.1m, up from £0.8m in the second quarter.

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Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pav	Year's
Int. of Fin.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brit. Assur.	156.7 (159)	6.5 (5.9)	4.1 (3.3)	0.35 (0.75)	5/1	3.8 (3.1)
BSG Int'l	—	—	—	—	—	—
ICI	—	—	—	—	—	—
GLD & D	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norman Hay	70.3 (61)	2.1 (2.1)	2.1 (2.1)	—	—	—
Portsmouth News	10.2 (12.7)	1.2 (1.2)	1.2 (1.2)	—	—	—
Spec. Gears	13.3 (12.4)	0.2 (0.2)	0.2 (0.2)	—	—	—
Starmor	0.9 (0.4)	0.2 (0.2)	0.2 (0.2)	—	—	—
Sphere Inv	—	—	—	—	—	—
W. Tyndal	25.6 (25.6)	0.4 (0.5)	0.4 (0.5)	—	—	—
Widnes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on 10p per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. *Loss; *Company estimate.						

Mining Supplies wins takeover bid for Scott

Mining Supplies, the Doncaster-based mining equipment manufacturer, announced yesterday that it had won control of Laurence Scott.

Mining Supplies now controls just over 64 per cent of shares in Scott, the Norwich electrical equipment firm, after a bitter takeover battle. The £4.5m bid has been declared unconditional.

Shareholders owning almost 29 per cent of Scott shares accepted the 60p a share cash offer, with a further 7 per cent pledged to the share exchange offer.

With the 27 per cent stake picked up by Mining Supplies through its dawn raid in stock-

markets earlier this year, and further purchases through the stockmarket, the group now controls just over 64 per cent of Laurence Scott.

But Laurence Scott directors have won a small victory. As the request of the takeover, Mining Supplies has now extended its cash and share offer until November 5.

Mr. Paul Tapscott, the chairman of Laurence Scott, said yesterday that as Mining Supplies had already started with some 27 per cent of the shares, he was "not really surprised" that it had won this level of acceptance. But he was pleased that the cash offer had been extended.

Hunting expects downturn

By Our Financial Staff

Hunting Associated achieved a rise in pre-tax profits from £7.7m to £8m for the half-year to June, but forecasts a lower level for the full year.

The group, with interests in aviation support, engineering, oil field services and photography, saw turnover increase to £75.5m in the same period last year. An interim gross dividend is maintained at 3.5p and the final is expected to be held at the same level.

A provision of £1.25m has been made for the losses and cost of disposal of the Channel Island aviation company which has been making losses for several years. The results do not include the group's subsidiary in Zimbabwe.

Turnover increased in all divisions, but the group said that orders for the boat building and aviation sectors were not as satisfactory levels.

Last year, pre-tax profits were £6.3m on a turnover of £124m.

Business appointments

Chief executive of London Life Association named

Mr E. M. P. Thompson-McCausland will become chief executive of the London Life Association in April next year when Mr A. K. Tudor retires. Mr Thompson-McCausland will continue as director of Arbutnot Latham Holdings.

Mr Ralph Grady has been appointed executive director of F. Austin (Lepton).

Mr A. R. Jackson has become managing director of Crest Engineering (UK) Inc., London.

New members of the Economic Development Committee for the Clothing Industry are Mr G. N. Hume, Mr T. E. Harmer, Mr H. Leffman, Mr J. Mannion and Mr P. Robinson.

Mr Graham H. Rutherford has been made director of marketing at Sunbeam (UK) Ltd. Mr Maurice Carter is now manufacturing director for Redding Electric, a member of the General Electric Company.

Mr Thomas B. Hassey has been co-opted to the board of Sunbeam Wolsey.

Mr P. W. J. van Rensburg is to be deputy chairman of Gold Fields of South Africa from December 1. Mr C. L. Feston and Mr B. R. van Rooyen have been appointed executive directors.

Mr K. A. Pottruff is to become a director of John L. Jacobs & Company from January.

Dealings in TNT to start on Monday

By Catherine Giza

Dealings in the shares of Australia's largest freight carrier, Thomas Nationwide Transport, start in London on Monday. Pressure from British institutional holders and the group's expansion in this country have behind the move. Sir Peter Miles, chairman, said yesterday.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING STARTS HERE

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- CAR BUYER'S GUIDE 22
- DOMESTIC SITUATIONS 22
- EDUCATIONAL 22
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- SERVICES 22
- SITUATIONS WANTED 22
- WANTED 22

For a complete guide to the classified advertising rates and conditions, see the classified advertising section on page 25.

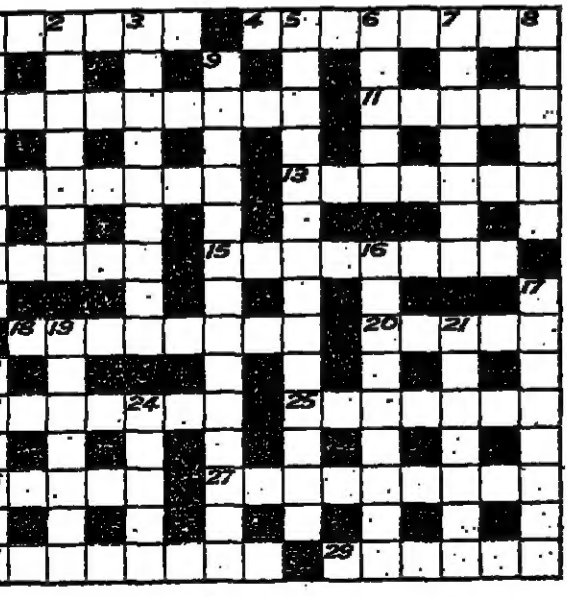
THE DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS ONE CALPUBLISHING. i.e. Monday is the deadline for Wednesday, Friday for Monday. Stops and Alterations to copy is 3.0 p.m. prior to the day of publication. For Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

CLASSIFIED RATES PERSONAL COLUMNS £3.00 per line—£15.00 per cm semi display—£18.50 per full display. APPOINTMENTS £3.00 per line—£15.00 per cm semi display—£18.50 per full display. PROPERTY £3.00 per line—£15.00 per cm semi display—£18.50 per full display. WEEKEND SURROUND £15.00 per cm full display, minimum 5cm. COURT CIRCULAR £4.00 per line. BOX NUMBERS £2.25.

FOR EVERY dream, a reality to match. The many words a chain of letters, the many letters a word. The many words a chain of letters, the many letters a word. The many words a chain of letters, the many letters a word.

BIRTHS BRACKENRIDGE—On October 22nd, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brackenridge, a daughter, Rebecca Jane.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,356



- ACROSS
- 1 It takes quarts, they say, to get him stoned (16).
 - 4 Scattered showers, the papers give for the match (8).
 - 10 Where German rule-holder is finally out for the count (9).
 - 11 A backward-looking attitude for 13 (13).
 - 12 Suspense device used in early writings (3-4).
 - 13 Japan's answer to a China crane? (7).
 - 14 Counts their foreign correspondents (5).
 - 15 He aims to deceive but fails miserably (5).
 - 16 Can a rich composer be an anti-establishment? (8).
 - 17 Old volunteer, added to force, as seen from (5).
 - 18 Did a turn and changed position, say (7).
 - 19 Sort of handwriting—what's it for? (7).
 - 20 Top worker fired again? Just the opposite (5).
 - 21 With the odd to I've won, in my opinion (9).
 - 22 Queen Mah rode briefly in one (8).
 - 23 Spotted how poetry this is (6).
- DOWN
- 1 See confusion in agreements for German bankers (9).
 - 2 Politician points to a Conservative majority (7).
 - 3 One who monopolizes bag writer (9).

BIRTHS

LEWIS—On October 20th, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, a daughter, Sarah Jane.

NEWELL—On October 22nd, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Newell, a son, James John.

PRICE—On October 22nd, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Price, a daughter, Emily Jane.

SCHWARTZ—On October 22nd, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. David Schwartz, a son, Michael David.

VAN DEN BERGH—On October 22nd, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Van Den Bergh, a daughter, Sarah Jane.

VAUGHAN—On October 22nd, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Vaughan, a son, James John.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, to the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, a daughter, Emily Jane.

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DEATHS

LEWIS—On October 20th, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, died at the age of 65.

NEWELL—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Newell, died at the age of 72.

PRICE—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Price, died at the age of 68.

SCHWARTZ—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. David Schwartz, died at the age of 75.

VAN DEN BERGH—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Van Den Bergh, died at the age of 70.

VAUGHAN—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Vaughan, died at the age of 78.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 82.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 85.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 88.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 90.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 92.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 94.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 96.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 98.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 100.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 102.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 104.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 106.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 108.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 110.

WILLIAMS—On October 22nd, 1980, the wife of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, died at the age of 112.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 25

SEASONAL SALES RESISTA CARPETS SALE NOW ON

CHRISTMAS CARDS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

SKI AND/ORRA WITH YOUNG WORLD FROM £19.95 WEEK

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